

**Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 27 March 2026**

Week ending	27 March 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	Commercial In-confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-067

Recipient	Action sought
Hon David Seymour Minister for Regulation	Note the contents of this report

Contact for discussion if required

Name	Position	Phone number
Aisling Risdon	Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services	s 9(2)(a)

Comments

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Actions

No actions this week.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services, s 9(2)(a)

Papers delivered and under development

Delivered to the Minister for Regulation

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-059	Regulatory Standards (Exclusions) Notice: House resolution process	25/03/2026
MFR2026-064	Draft circular on expectations for good Law-making	26/03/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-065	Road closure for events	01/04/2026
MFR2026-066	Recommendations to the Governor-General for the Regulatory Standards Board	01/04/2026
MFR2026-069	Advice on Options for Medium-Complexity Reviews	01/04/2026
MFR2026-068	Product Labelling Regulatory Review - draft Cabinet paper for ministerial consultation	02/04/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-062	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026	16/04/2026

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Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
27 March	Wellington	Telecommunication Regulatory Review outcome	Announcement of the report findings and Cabinet decisions Ministerial press release
March	Wellington	RSA Implementation	Ministerial press release MfR web copy and release of the Cabinet paper
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
April (TBC)	Wellington	Announcement of Regulatory Standards Board membership	Ministerial press release MfR web copy on biographies

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
March/April	RSA implementation comms to public sector

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Communications and Engagement, s 9(2)(a)

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Updates

Telecommunications Review

For information

The Review report was published and findings announced on 27 March. Your office has also approved the release of the Cabinet Paper and that will be published on our website s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[COMMERCIAL IN-CONFIDENCE: s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Contact: Cherie Engelbrecht, Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Product Labelling Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

Options analysis continues for all workstreams. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next week we will provide a more substantive update on this work.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Future Reviews

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Following our conversation with you on 24 March 2026, we are scoping solar panels, s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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s 9(2)(f)(iv) as potential medium-complexity reviews that could be undertaken in the meantime.

Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 26 March 2026, the Ministry had received a total of 1,568 submissions on potential red tape issues. We currently have 36 low-complexity reviews underway.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Innovation in regulation – release of regulatory sandbox guidance

For information

On 25 March 2026, the Chief Executive wrote to public sector CEs involved in regulatory systems drawing their attention to the Ministry's new guidance on regulatory sandboxes. This will shortly be followed up with public promotion of the guidance in the Ministry's newsletter and on LinkedIn.

Initial responses from within government have been positive, and we anticipate that business interest will be strong as well. We are currently investigating near-term opportunities to use this method.

Contact: Alex McMinn, Head of Regulatory System Capability, s 9(2)(a)

External engagement events

For information

The Ministry had a series of engagements in Auckland this week.

On 24 March, Kevin Counsell, Chief Economist, presented at the Environment and Resource Management Law Update conference. His presentation focussed on the underlying economic concepts of the use and enjoyment of property rights, externalities, and regulatory takings.

On 25 March, Kevin then presented a guest lecture to Auckland University of Technology (AUT) first year economics students about the Ministry and how we apply robust economic analysis in all our work.

On the same day, the Ministry held an event in partnership with the AUT Investment Club (predominantly economics and finance students). Kevin Counsell, Paula Knaap, Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Enablement, and Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations were

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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on a panel moderated by economics faculty members. The panel had excellent engagement in the Ministry's work and career options for students.

The Ministry also collaborated with MinterEllisonRuddWatts on a client event. The panel event had a large amount of interest from a number of the firm's Auckland-based clients, with representatives attending from organisations in insurance, banking, healthcare and transport sectors, among others. There was significant interest from the audience about how we select and scope reviews, our evidence-based and analytical approach to decision-making, and our approach to stakeholder engagement.

On 26 March, Paula Knaap and Abbey Macalister attended the New Zealand HR Awards, where the Ministry is a finalist in the Talent Acquisition category.

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Communications and Engagement, s 9(2)(a)

Engagement with Rocket Lab

For information

This week Adam Jackson, the Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, had a call with Rocket Lab's s 9(2)(a) to discuss regulatory issues. Rocket Lab was very appreciative that we had reached out. s 9(2)(a) stressed that their experience with the New Zealand Government, and particularly the New Zealand Space Agency, has been very good. However, in anticipation of our call, the Rocket Lab team had prepared a list of regulatory settings that do cause them some issues. We are currently working through those issues. s 9(2)(a) also indicated that Rocket Lab would be happy to host you at their premises. We will work with your office on a possible visit.

Contact: Adam Jackson, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, s 9(2)(a)

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Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Below are two of the draft Cabinet papers we have recently been consulted on that we wanted to bring to your attention.

Contact: Gwen Rashbrooke, Manager Regulatory Policy Design, S 9(2)(a)

Title	Probable Committee	Comment
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
<i>Fuel response plan 2026</i>	TBC	Although we provided some minor comments and questions about the approach, our overall view was that the proposed approach was sound.