



Proactively Released

Weekly Report

Week ending:	31 January 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	MFR2025-016
Recipient		Action sought	
Hon David Seymour MINISTER FOR REGULATION		Note the contents of this report	

Aisling Risdon
Contact: S9(2)(a)
Ministry for Regulation

Minister's comments:

Actions

Action	Due date	Status update
A2024-054	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
A2024-055	Develop a comms plan for both the Early Childhood Education and the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Reviews.	TBC
A2025-056	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2025-006	Final report for the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review	30 January
MFR2025-012	Electronic Controlled Drug Register	30 January
MFR2025-015	Talking points on Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review for Joint Ministers Meeting on 3 February 2025	30 January

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-008	Regulation of Minimum Capital Requirements for Banks	5 February
MFR2025-018	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	5 February
MFR2025-007	Options for the Ministry for Regulations role post regulatory reviews	28 February

Upcoming events/announcements

Date	Location	Event	Opportunity
Week of 27 January	Wellington	Red tape portal update	Minister's PR
Week of 27 January	Wellington	Ministry's newsletter distributed to 4,500 subscribers	Minister's guest foreword included
February	Wellington	Ag/Hort: Release of summary of engagement and submissions and the public release of final review report	Joint Minister's PR post Cabinet (TBC 24/2)
March	Wellington	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
March	Wellington		
March	Wellington		
March	Wellington		


Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Engagement. Ph. s 9(2)(a)

Updates

2025 Legislation Programme Bids

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)




Contact: Jeremy Shoebridge, Acting Head of Legal. Ph. S9(2)(a)

Proposed Regulatory Standards Bill Consultation

For information

We are currently in the process of analysing the approximately 23,000 submissions we received on the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill. We plan to provide you with interim findings of the submissions analysis by 20 February 2025.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Contact: Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive, Policy, Ph. S9(2)(a)

Recruitment and Workforce Update

For information

The composition of the Ministry workforce has shifted following the conclusion of several of our fixed term and contract staff finishing at the end of 2024.

We have now appointed 62 permanent employees – almost 70% of our permanent positions. As the Ministry matures, we are gaining a better understanding of our workforce needs, and small changes to titles and levels of expertise can be seen in our current permanent establishment compared to that of our initial structure developed back in June/July 2024.

This week our Head of Engagement, Joe Stockman started with the Ministry. Next week, both Head of Digital and Insights, Carol Abernethy and the Chief Economist Kevin Counsell will commence their roles.

Only two permanent manager roles remain to be filled, along with a small number of vacancies in each business group.

Appendix 1 contains an updated A3 showing the recruitment progress.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations. Ph. **S9(2)(a)**

Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review

For information

The Hairdressing and Barbering Review team are in the engagement and analysis phase of the review.

Targeted direct engagement with business owners and groups representing regulated parties and regulators is in progress.

As of 28 January, we have received 30 submissions from business owners, 21 from hair and barber professionals, 32 from environmental health officers, and 7 from other interested parties.

The Engagement Hub will close on 31 January 2025.

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager, Regulatory Reviews. Ph. **S9(2)(a)**

Early Childhood Education Regulatory Review

For information

The Early Childhood Education Review team have been working with Ministry of Education (MoE) and Education Review Office (ERO) to develop the implementation plan for the recommendations, while also considering the Regulatory Model and the appropriate sequencing of the programme of work.

Following the meeting with you, MoE, and ERO officials on 29 January, we are progressing the preparation of a March Cabinet paper.

Contact: Tony Clark, Manager Regulatory Reviews Ph. **S9(2)(a)**

Regulatory Response / Red Tape Portal

For information

The Regulatory Response Team have received a total of 546 submissions to 27 January 2025. We have included the first of our Regulatory Response summary reports for 2024 in **Appendix 2**. We will move to quarterly reporting from the end of March 2025. Following a number of Official Information Act requests, we will be proactively releasing these reports on the Ministry website going forward (with any required redactions for matters still being actively considered).

RRT #	Issue	Status update
RRT2024-0524	Application of Light Vehicle Regulations to BYD Hybrid Ute	An issues briefing was provided in last week's bag for your consideration (MFR2025-009). We are working with the Office on a press release relating to the initial report on the portal which includes information about this issue.
RRT2024 issues: 030, 048, 051, 052, 198, 199	Property transactions and the AML regime	An issues briefing was provided in last week's bag for your consideration. (MFR2024-165). Our overall recommendation is for you to write to Ministers McKee and van Velden on actions we have identified and to agree to us engaging further with DIA and MoJ. We will then provide you with further advice.
RRT2024-0540	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
RRT2024-026	Gift cards under the AML regime	You wrote to Ministers van Velden and McKee on 28 January 2025 in relation to this issue requesting best practice guidance to be issued by early 2025 (DIA) and advice on when the Exemption Regulations will be amended (MoJ) (MFR2024-175). We will work with DIA & MoJ to progress and advise the submitter as indicated.
RRT2024-0209, RRT2024-0221, RRT2024-0359	Electronic Drug Register	An issues briefing is attached for your consideration (MFR2025-012)
RRT2024-0356	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	
RRT2024-269	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	

Contact: Lucy Pritchard, Principal Advisor, Reviews and System Capability. Ph. S9(2)(a)

Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Draft Cabinet papers that we have been consulted on will appear here. Only new papers or papers with updated commentary will be included.

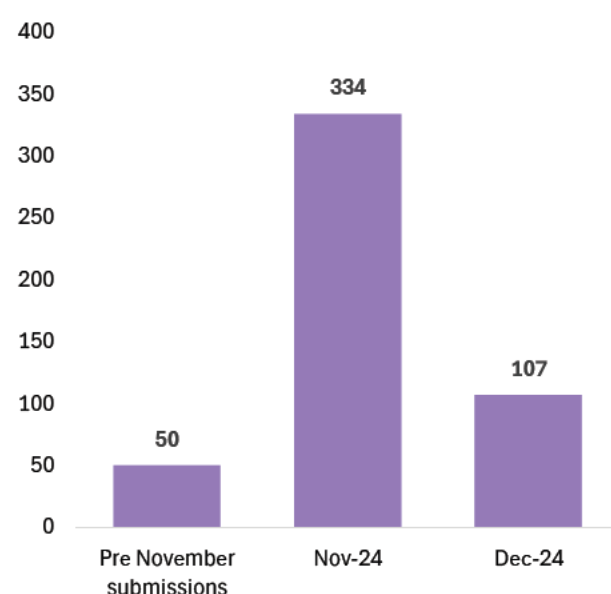
Title	Probable Committee	Proposed WR Comment
Weather Forecasting Review Recommendations	ECO 19 Feb	<p>This paper seeks agreement for NIWA to acquire the MetService (currently an SOE) and operate as a Crown agent, exempting the transaction from needing to obtain a Commerce Act clearance. It proposes limited operational steps to make data available and reviewing options after three years (recommendations 9 & 10).</p> <p>s 9(2)(g)(i), s 9(2)(i)</p> <p>You may want to express a view or discuss this option with the Minister of Finance. While the costs of earlier and more comprehensive data access need to be weighed against the benefits of greater market entry and innovation, this choice also depends on how Ministers weigh up other Crown funding priorities.</p>

Red Tape Submissions - 2024/25 Q2 (Oct-Dec) Summary Report



Since the online portal was launched on 19 November 2024, we have seen a variety of regulatory issues that New Zealanders consider are getting in the way of their lives and businesses. We have considered the issues raised with us and have decided which ones we will investigate further (either ourselves or alongside other agencies). The submissions have been across a wide variety of sectors but we have seen some common themes around Resource Management Act and zoning decisions, the building consent system, anti-money laundering requirements, temporary traffic management and small food businesses. All of the submissions have helped us to identify potential areas for future sector reviews - even those that we might not have progressed to an investigation. They have also led to engagement with other agencies and increased visibility of regulatory red tape. Our specific interventions on a number of issues have already led to positive change (see highlights section) and our investigations into the red tape tips will provide broader insights and practical solutions to improve the lives of New Zealanders.

2024 Red Tape submissions



In 2024, the Ministry received 491 red tape submissions. 55 of these were before the portal launched on 19 November. These are the top themes we've seen come through the portal since its launch:

Small cake/food business submissions relate to the registration and certification fees for these small food manufacturers being too high and s 9(2)(g)(i) to larger businesses, e.g., restaurants.

Temporary traffic management submissions are varied, but largely relate to cost and the confusing and inhibiting rules in this area.

Anti-Money Laundering submissions largely relate to disproportionate compliance burden for small, medium and large businesses and the impact on individuals trying to transact business.

Building consents submitters raise concerns about issues with consenting for office buildings through to tiny homes.

Some of the other themes we're seeing relate to **vehicle licencing**, application of the **RMA, zoning**, and the call for a regulation change to enable **electronic controlled drug registers**.

Highlights for 2024 - cutting red tape

Last year, the Ministry investigated a large number of red tape tips we heard from businesses and individual members of the public. In the following examples, the Ministry has added value to regulated markets and the New Zealand economy by investigating red tape issues and finding practical solutions.

Buy now pay later

Our investigation identified that the implemented regulatory reforms to the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 (CCCFA) to Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) providers would likely have an adverse impact on consumers. Off the back of this, Cabinet approved the Minister for Regulation's recommended approach which aims to avoid higher compliance costs for BNPL providers being passed on to consumers.

Industrial Hemp (iHemp)

Industrial hemp has a number of potential uses across various sectors. Working alongside the New Zealand Hemp Industries Association (NZHIA), we have made recommendations for progressing changes to the way industrial hemp is regulated in New Zealand. Advice on this will shortly be considered by Cabinet, and we believe this change will support growth in this industry.

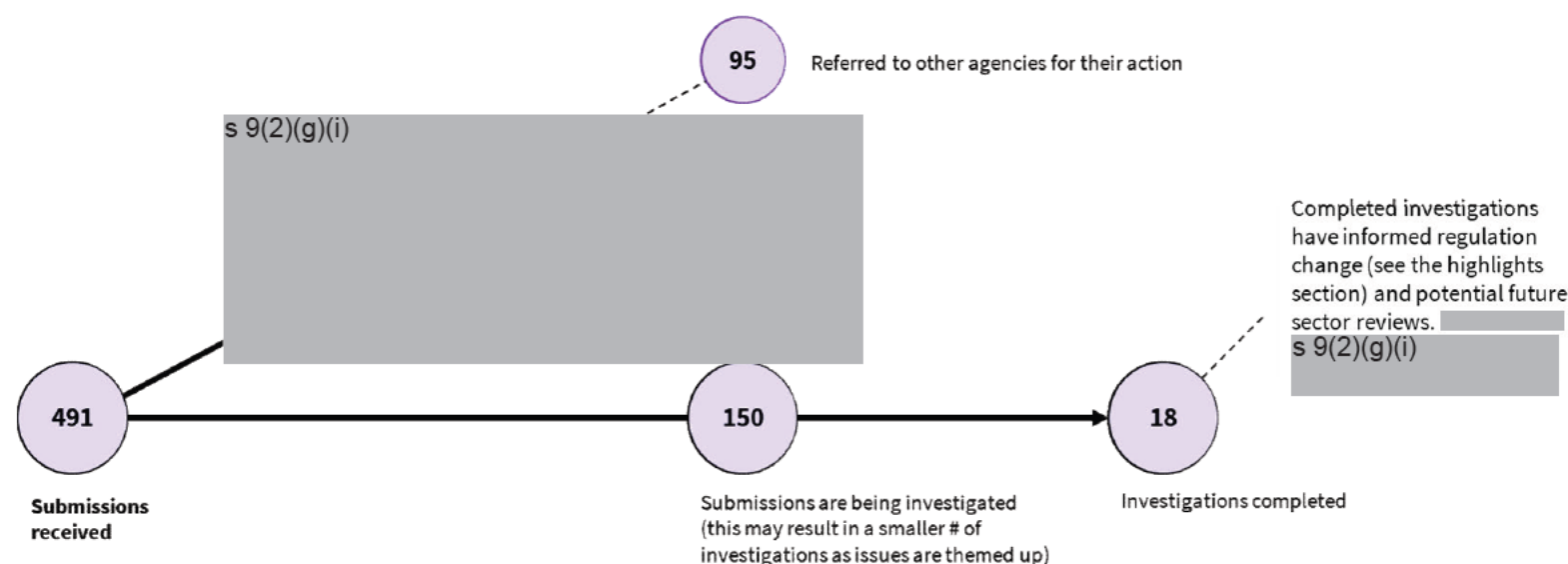
Flour Dust

The Ministry worked with commercial bakers and WorkSafe to analyse whether a proposed change to the current Workplace Exposure Standard for flour dust would deliver benefits to the baking industry, or create unneeded compliance burden. By applying the principles of good regulatory design, the Ministry worked with WorkSafe who agreed to pause the change to further assess if it is fit-for-purpose.

Other Examples of the Ministry working with agencies to influence better regulatory design:

- s 9(2)(g)(i)
- We worked with the Ministry of Justice to ensure they consider current income and asset thresholds that determine the process for administering property on behalf of someone lacking decision-making capacity. In September 2024 positive changes were made to the financial thresholds.
- s 9(2)(g)(i)
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What's happening with the submissions received



Recruitment Update

28 January 2025

Current staffing breakdown

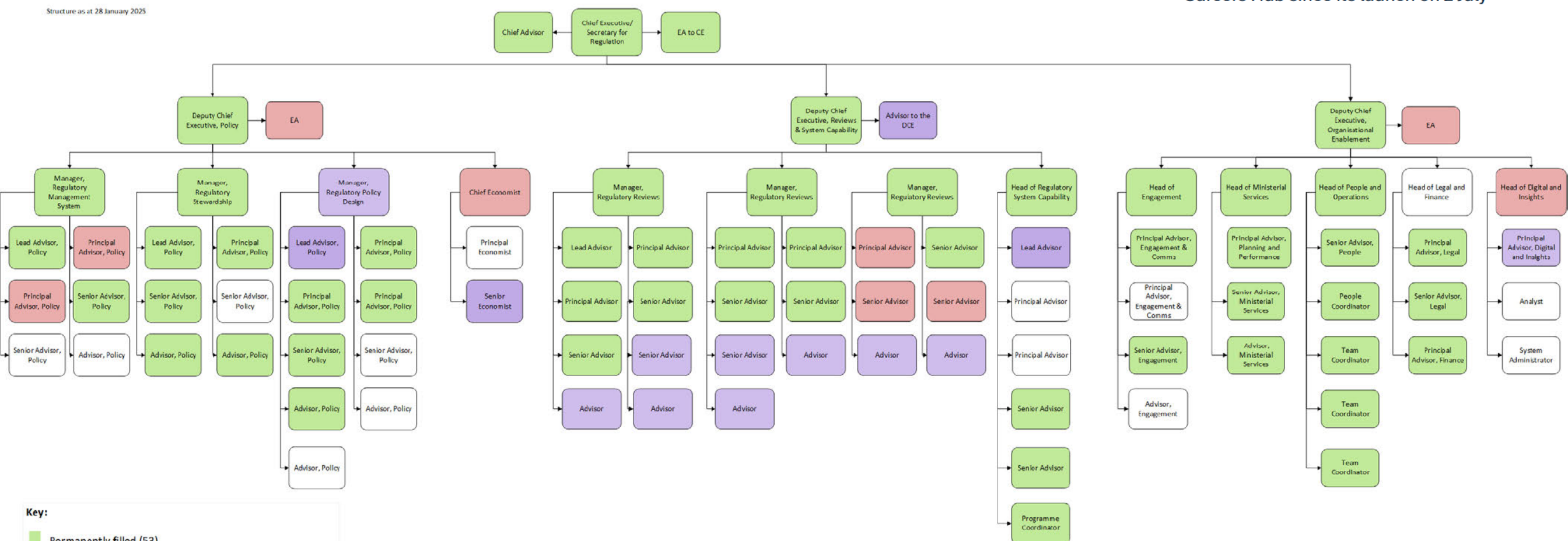
Total staff	85
Permanent	53
Fixed-term	27
Secondments	2
Contractors	4

Permanent recruitment progress

Total permanent roles in Ministry structure	90
Filled	53 (59%)
Appointed but not started	9 (10%)
Recruitment in progress	14 (15.5%)
Vacant, recruitment yet to start	14 (15.5%)

- 1827 people have registered their interest with the Ministry's Careers Hub
- The MfR Careers Hub job conversion rate – the percentage of people who view the ad and go on to apply for the job – is 9%; this is a strong rate
- We have had 37k visitors to the Careers Hub since its launch on 2 July

Structure as at 28 January 2025



Key:

- Permanently filled (53)
- In recruitment process (14)
- Appointed and yet to start (9)
- Vacant (14)