



# Weekly Report

**Week ending:** 11 April 2025

**Priority:** Medium

**Security classification:** In confidence

**Tracking number:** MFR2025-085

---

**Recipient**

**Action sought**

**Hon David Seymour**  
**MINISTER FOR REGULATION**

**Note** the contents of this report

---

Aisling Risdon  
Contact: s 9(2)(a)  
Ministry for Regulation

---

**Minister's comments:**

# Actions

Action		Due date	Status update
A2025-105	ECE: consider viability of proposal discussed at Cabinet	7 April	Complete.
A2025-109	Future sector reviews - talking points	8 April	Complete. Refer to MFR2025-089
A2025-103	RSB: Prepare worked examples and flowcharts of how the consistency assessments would work in practice.	15 April	In progress.
A2025-108	s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

# Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2025-073	Draft Terms of Reference for telecommunications sector review	7 April
MFR2025-089	Talking points for meeting with Hon Paul Goldsmith on 9 April 2025	8 April
MFR2025-081	Invitation to speak at National Regulators Community of Practice (NRCoP) on 27-28 August 2025	10 April
MFR2025-084	Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review Draft Cabinet Paper	10 April
MFR2025-090	Information release: key advice papers to Cabinet paper ECO-25-SUB-0006	10 April
MFR2025-080	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey March 2025	11 April
MFR2025-092	Regulatory Standards Bill: Advice to support further Ministerial consultation	11 April

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-094	Regulatory Standards Bill: Material to support discussions with Ministers prior to Cabinet decisions	15 April
MFR2025-086	Updated draft Terms of Reference and draft Cabinet paper for Telecommunications sector review	22 April
MFR2025-088	Seeking policy decisions to progress the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review Omnibus Bill	22 April
MFR2025-095	Talking points for Cabinet Economic Policy Committee on 14 May 2025	8 May

# Announcements & Engagements

*This section has been amended to include information about the Ministry's engagement activity.*

## Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
April TBC	Wellington	Announcement of future regulatory review(s)	Ministerial press release (TBC) Christchurch event (TBC)
April TBC	Wellington	ECE regulatory review: Recommendations accepted by Cabinet	Ministerial press release
April 28 TBC	Wellington	Release of RSB TIA, RIS and summary of submissions.	Ministerial release MfR web content
16 April	Christchurch	Business Canterbury Lunch Event	Ministry CEO to attend with you – potential for business roundtable or meeting with local businesses
1 May	Tauranga	Tauranga Chamber of Commerce Event	Ministry CEO to attend with you – potential for business roundtable
12 May TBC	Wellington	Release of Hairdressing & Barbering review	Ministerial press release MfR web content
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
29 May	Hamilton	Business Chamber Lunch	MfR to provide options for business visits and regional RRT data.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

## Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
April – May	Collaborative web series with NZIER on regulation
15 April	DCE and Chief Economist meeting with Australian Productivity Commission on NZ regulatory reform
8 May	Chief Executive presentation to Russell McVeagh SLT and Board
4 June	Chief Executive presentation to Council of Financial Regulators
5-6 June	Chief Executive meet with visiting Deputy-Director General of Health (Health Regulation) Singapore – NZ regulation approach
11 June	Chief Executive on conference panel at APHANZ conference
19 August	IPANZ webinar series – Chief Executive presentation as part of public service leaders series.

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

# Updates

## Regulatory Standards Bill

*For information*

We are preparing material to support the next round of engagement with Ministers Willis, Jones and Collins, to support the discussion at Cabinet on 28 April 2025. We have engaged with your advisors to select appropriate regulatory examples to provide illustrative consistency statements and are also preparing material for those Ministers that will show the overall system design and how the Bill will operate on proposals in the flow. We understand your office has sought formal approval to draft the remaining parts of the Bill from the Attorney-General's office.

Contact: Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive, Policy | s 9(2)(a)

## Ministry Office Relocation

*For information*

The Ministry will be moving from 2 The Terrace to Bowen House on 17 April 2025.

This week we attended a formal blessing of the building on 11 April 2025 by Te Atiawa representatives. An official opening ceremony will be held on 14 April 2025. In your capacity as our minister, Minister Collins has extended an invite to you for the official opening ceremony on 14 April. Alongside the Public Service Commission, the Ministry for Regulation will be the first tenants to move into the new building following the official opening.

The Ministry's 'home' floor will be level 18, with shared access to conference, meeting rooms, and other facilities across the rest of the building. The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment will be managing the building.

The Ministry is looking forward to moving to a modern and collaborative work environment.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations | s 9(2)(a)

## Future Reviews

*For information*

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

## Telecommunications Review

### For information

On 7 April we provided you a briefing and draft terms of reference ahead of your meeting with Minister Goldsmith on 10 April.

Following the Joint Ministers' meeting on Thursday morning regarding the draft terms of reference for the Telecommunications Review, we are working with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to give effect to Ministers' decisions. We understand that you and Minister Goldsmith agreed to Option one, which was to undertake targeted engagement on a wide scope, with Telecommunications Development Levy and vertical integration out of scope.

An updated draft terms of reference will be provided to your Office for your approval. We are also working with your Office to support any announcements. We plan to start targeted engagement as soon as the revised terms of reference are approved to ensure the draft terms of reference are on track be presented to Cabinet on 12 May 2015.

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

## Early Childhood Education Regulatory Review

### For information

The *Response to the Early Childhood Education Regulatory Sector Review* paper was considered at Cabinet this week and it was referred to SOU. As you know, SOU has invited you, in consultation with the Minister of Education, to resubmit an updated paper to Cabinet on 14 April.

Following the discussions at SOU, we have seen amended recommendations from MOE that progress the decisions agreed at Cabinet being to:

- retain the guiding principles, including Health and Safety being paramount;
- strengthen the third guiding principle to include transition to school;
- s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- agree that the recommendations refer only to commencement dates for bills not enactment dates.

s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Contact: Tony Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

## Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review

*For information*

This week we delivered the Final Review Report, the Short Form Final Report, and a draft Cabinet paper (**MFR2025-084**) to begin Ministerial consultation on the recommendations of the Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review (the Review).

Both ministerial and agency consultation will take place next week (14 to 18 April).

A Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS), drawing heavily on the Review's Final report, is currently going through the Ministry's quality assurance panel.

Following consultation, we will address any feedback required and provide a final Cabinet paper to your office for lodgement on 1 May for the 6 May Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee meeting. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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

## Agricultural and Horticultural Regulatory Review

*For information*

Last week we informed you about the first meeting of the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Sector Leaders Forum, held on 3 April.

In our view, the meeting was a promising start for the Forum, with constructive conversations and a future-focused approach. Where there were differences in views among members (for example around having an independent chair), pragmatic compromises were identified that maintained momentum while ensuring concerns would be resolved over time.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Forum will be providing a joint communication to Ministers in the following weeks to summarise the first meeting.

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

## Regulatory Response Team

*For information*

As at 7 April 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 681 submissions on red tape issues, with 73 issues under active investigation.

This week the Red Tape Portal received positive media coverage in an article by The Post <https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/360640983/who-has-been-dobbed-red-tape-tipline>

We are actively working with your office on engagements relating to the issues outlined below:

- medical conferences
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

### **Small Food Manufacturers and Retailers**

You recently requested an update on the issues we are investigating in relation to small food manufacturers and retailers.

Since the launch of the Ministry's online portal on 19 November 2024, 23 submissions relating to the regulation of small food businesses have been received and are currently being considered.

Most of these submissions relate to the cost or obligations imposed on small cake makers by the Food Act 2014 or associated regulations. Many of these submissions are duplicate or near duplicates. The Ministry for Primary Industries is responsible for administering the Food Act 2014 and associated regulations while territorial authorities have certain functions under the Act, including collecting the food business levy and ensuring compliance.

Following our written submission to the Petitions Committee on 31 January 2025, we have received an invitation to attend an oral hearing of the Petitions Committee on 8 May 2025, on "*Fair and affordable food regulations for small food businesses*". On 16 April 2025, in advance of the Petitions Committee meeting, we will discuss the issue with the Ministry for Primary Industries.

The Ministry for Regulation is currently investigating this issue, including considering the proportionality of the obligations and costs that are imposed on small food businesses. The Ministry can provide you with further updates as this issue progresses.

We provided the below advice to your office this week:

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2025-093	RRT Weekly report 10 April	9 April
MFR2025-087	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	10 April

Contact: Lucy Pritchard, Lead Advisor, Regulatory Reviews s 9(2)(a)



## System Capability Update

*For information*

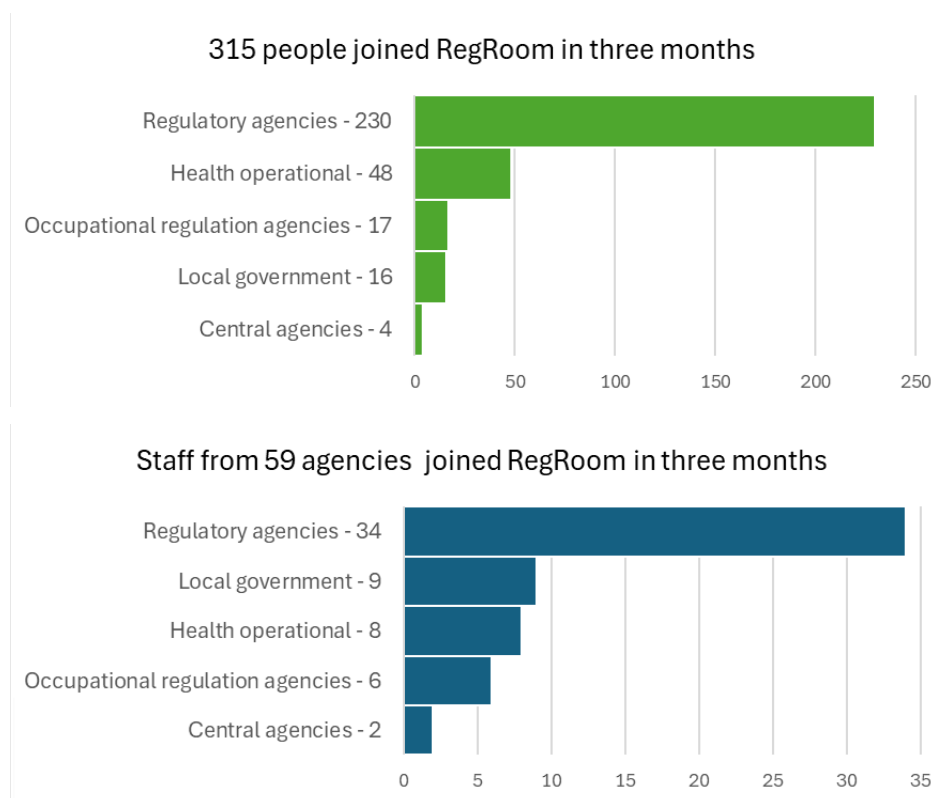
The Ministry's system capability team is being regularly approached by agencies for expert input on reviewing their regulatory approach, strategy and other leadership practices, which is a positive indicator of the growing standing of the Ministry in the regulatory sector.

While it is not practical to provide direct support to every agency in the sector, the team is instead using these engagements to live trial guidance and toolkits that will be released for leadership teams across the sector later in 2025. The guidance and toolkits will serve to promote clarity of purpose and resource prioritisation, transparency with stakeholders and regulated parties, and ongoing improvement of regulatory systems.

### **RegRoom and Regulatory Practice Essentials Project Update**

Since the first six Regulatory Practice Essentials Quick Guides were released in October 2024 they have reached a significant audience. There have been 1,149 downloads across the six guides from the Ministry's website, and appreciative feedback from people at all levels of the regulatory sector. This validates our analysis that there has been a gap in foundational knowledge about regulatory practice that affects leaders, governors, and frontline workers alike.

A further four Quick Guides are currently under development and are due for release in May. In parallel, each Quick Guide has an interactive online module to expand on the theory and content. People who do regulatory work access these through the Ministry for Regulation's online collaboration platform, RegRoom. The platform was shared in the Ministry's newsletter which has resulted in an increase of 200 users in the past 3 weeks. We currently have a total of 315 users representing almost 60 agencies and local councils.





The official launch of RegRoom along with the final four Quick Guides and modules is planned for mid-2025, at which point we expect user numbers to significantly increase. We will work with your office to coordinate an official launch of the platform.

Contact: Alex McMinn, Manager, System Capability | s 9(2)(a)

## Temporary Traffic Management

*For information*

We are engaging with a range of stakeholders in the temporary traffic management (TTM) sector to understand what problems exist in this space and whether regulatory changes could improve the industry's contribution to society's overall welfare. We are also working closely with NZTA, have consulted the Ministry of Transport, and plan to engage with the team working on health and safety reforms at MBIE. We intend to provide further economic analysis of the issues surrounding TTM and seek decisions on next steps for the Ministry on TTM in May.

Contact: Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive, Policy | s 9(2)(a)

# Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Draft Cabinet papers that we have been consulted on will appear here.

## New or updated papers

Title	Probable Committee	Comment
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Title	Probable Committee	Comment
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

## Amending section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 in response to High Court ruling

Minister Tama Potaka as Minister of Conservation sought Cabinet agreement via an oral item, to urgently amend section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 (the Act). The proposed amendment sought to address uncertainty for stakeholders, following a High Court ruling that found that it is unlawful for the Department of Conservation (DOC) to authorise the incidental killing of protected wildlife under s 53 of the Act. The High Court found that authorising incidental harm and killing of wildlife is counter to the purpose of the Act (i.e. to protect wildlife) and that there were insufficient offsets. This decision means that authority holders (e.g. public and private developers, researchers) may be required to delay or stop projects – including subdivisions, construction work, solar and wind farms, powerline maintenance, and road infrastructure, with potentially significant economic impacts. The oral item sought agreement to amend the Act so that DOC can maintain status quo operations. Proposed amendments include:

- enabling previously authorised activities to continue with certainty by retrospectively validating them.
- enabling the government to keep authorising the kinds of activities and approaches it has previously authorised.
- potentially amending the defence provisions in the Act to provide further certainty.

No Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) was completed to accompany the oral item to Cabinet, and the proposal had not been exempted by the Ministry for Regulation. We understand this legislation is being introduced directly to Cabinet on 17 April 2025, therefore there is not adequate opportunity to prepare a Supplementary Analysis Report. The Ministry for Regulation and the Department of Conservation have agreed that a post-implementation review will be developed and provided to Cabinet within two years after implementation.

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