



Minister and Portfolio	Hon David Seymour, Minister for Regulation		
Title	Talking points for Cabinet paper and Terms of Reference – Telecommunications Regulatory Review	Number	MFR2025-116
Date	21 May 2025	Security level	IN CONFIDENCE

Purpose

To provide talking points for the Cabinet paper and proposed Terms of Reference for the Telecommunications Sector Regulatory Review to support your attendance at the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) on Monday, 26 May 2025.

Background

- At CBC's meeting on 26 May 2025, you and Minister Goldsmith are seeking agreement to the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Telecommunications Sector Regulatory Review, prior to Cabinet endorsing CBC's decision on 3 June 2025.
- Consultation with targeted stakeholders was undertaken on the draft ToR from 16 - 28 April. Feedback from that consultation informed the development of the proposed scope of the review.
- Agency, ministerial and coalition consultation on the Cabinet paper and ToR was undertaken from 8 - 20 May. All feedback received has been addressed.

Talking points

- Telecommunications is a rapidly evolving industry driven by consumer demands for better and more reliable connectivity. The review will consider whether the current regulation remains fit for purpose in light of technology and market changes.
- This review provides an opportunity to review regulation that has no useful purpose and acts as a drag on innovation, productivity and growth in the telecommunications market.
- Stakeholders are supportive of the review and want the regime to be simplified to reduce disproportionate administrative burdens and barriers to competition, innovation, and investment.
- The Ministry for Regulation undertook targeted engagement with key stakeholders to develop the scope of the review to ensure it focuses on known issues and pain points.
- Although we previously indicated the Telecommunications Development Levy (TDL) would be out of scope, stakeholders told us the administration

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and collection method is expensive, inefficient and resource intensive. We are, therefore, proposing that the TDL methodology is in scope.

- The review will use a first principles framework to identify regulations that are justified; regulations that are not justified but are being addressed by other government workstreams; and regulations that are not justified nor being addressed.
- I expect the review to be completed in 6-months, but this is a complex and important area of regulation, so some flexibility may be required. We are seeking to return to Cabinet in early December 2025 for decisions on recommendations from the review.
- If legislative change is needed, I expect the responsible portfolio minister and relevant agencies to lead the Bill to progress the changes within six months of Cabinet consideration of the recommendations.

Next steps

We recommend sharing these talking points with Minister Goldsmith ahead of the Committee meeting on Monday, 26 May.

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