



Weekly Report

Week ending: 19 June 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-158

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	Status update
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
A2025-192	Future reviews: MfR to work with MO on earlier Cabinet date	June	Complete
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
A2025-208	Provide MfR feedback on the Climate related disclosures recent RIS (if we were consulted)	19 June	Complete
A2025-182	Future reviews: Work up the next four future reviews options for Cabinet approval	27 June	Complete

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2025-143	Use of video-capable smart glasses in remote work	17 June
MFR2025-161	Draft Cabinet paper: Sector Reviews in the 2025/26 Financial Year	17 June

Papers delivered to the Office of the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2025-160	Industrial Hemp biweekly update – 16 June 2025	16 June
MFR2025-134	Information Release: Regulatory Standards Bill - post-introduction of the Bill	18 June
MFR2025-159	RRT Weekly Report 18 June 2025	18 June
MFR2025-162	Telecommunications sector review steering group	18 June
MFR2025-164	Industrial Hemp biweekly update – 18 June 2025	18 June

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-153	Further advice on overweight agricultural vehicles	26 June
MFR2025-154	Draft Cabinet paper: Addressing unnecessary regulatory burden on the industrial hemp sector	27 June
MFR2025-147	July update on the Telecommunications Regulatory Review	10 July

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
TBC	Wellington	Ministerial update on progress in Telco review	Ministerial PR MfR website news section
TBC	Wellington	Announcement of next sector reviews	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn
TBC	Wellington	RRT investigation – AML/gift cards	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn
TBC June	Wellington	RRT investigation - Probate	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn
5 August	Auckland	Ministerial visit	MfR will work with your office to identify suitable visit opportunities in the area.

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
18-19 June	Stakeholder engagement for the review into iHemp regulations
26 June	DCE Policy – one year update on MfR to ILANZ/Bell Gully GC Forum - Wellington

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

Updates

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

Last week we provided your office with responses to questions from the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC). 18(c)(ii). Submissions to FEC close on Monday 23 June and we anticipate being requested to appear again on Wednesday 25 June.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

Engagement with a range of key stakeholders to inform the early stages of the Review is underway. To date, stakeholders have been very engaged and have provided a significant amount of information which is now being used to inform possible options.

Next week, we are meeting with s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review

For information

Implementation of the review is on track:

- **Draft public health guidance for hairdressers and barbers** is currently with agencies and key sector groups for review, due 19 June. We will provide the Ministry of Health (MoH) with an updated draft on 24 June. The document will then go through MoH sign-out and is planned to be available on the MoH website from 10 July.
- **Revocation of the existing regulation** – a joint (Minister of Health and Minister for Regulation) paper has been lodged and will go the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) on 26 June and then to the Executive Council on 30 June. With the 28-day rule this means the regulations will be revoked on 31 July, as per our original plans.

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

Industrial Hemp

For information

S 9(2)(f)(iv)

S 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Portal

For information

The Ministry has received a total of 780 submissions to date. We currently have 38 investigations underway, investigating issues relating to 91 public submissions. We have closed 564 submissions. The latest RRT report was provided to your office on the 18 June (MFR2025-159).

We are awaiting further direction from your office on the issues outlined below:

Title	Source	Date advice sent	Action awaited
Use of video capable glasses in remote work (RRT2025-0728) (MFR2025-143)	A direct commission from your office	17 June 2025 (this week's bag)	Decision on next steps
Payments NZ de-commissioning old EFTPOS terminals (RRT2025-0743) (MFR2025-144)	A direct commission from your office	11 June 2025	Decision on next steps
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
Increasing the probate threshold (RRT2024-0470& 0452) (MFR2025-109)	Public submissions	12 May 2025	Response from Minister Goldsmith & decision on next steps/engagement opportunities
DIA's Digital Identity programme of work (RRT2024-0455,0495,0507) (MFR2025-096)	Public submissions	15 April 2025	Response from Minister Collins & decision on next steps/engagement opportunities
S 9(2)(f)(iv)			
Scaffolding regulations (RRT2024-0532) (MFR2025-068)	Public submission	28 March 2025	Decision on next steps pending discussions with Minister van Velden's office

Title	Source	Date advice sent	Action awaited
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

We are actively working on the following issues. This is not a full view of all investigative work happening, only those that we will be providing you or your office with advice on shortly

Title	Source	Investigation stage
S 9(2)(f)(iv)		
Playground equipment standards (RRT2025-0714)	A direct commission from your office	Preparing briefing
Lead-free product requirements for plumbers (RRT2025-0697)	A direct commission from your office	Investigating
Export of dietary supplements (RRT2025-0715)	A direct commission from your office	Investigating
S 9(2)(f)(iv)		
S 9(2)(f)(iv)		

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

System Capability update

For information

Leadership: Regulator governance focus

- Central to the Ministry's objective of improving regulator performance is the role of governance boards. The Ministry met with the Institute of Directors on early June to discuss issues and opportunities, and the Ministry's role in making systemic improvement. These discussions focussed on attracting, appointing and equipping board members for the specific questions that need to be asked in regulator governance.
- Other activity includes discussions with Iti Kōpara, an organisation in pursuit of public sector governance excellence. We will focus on their training products and developing improvement proposals to discuss with the bodies involved in advertising and appointments of governance roles.

Leadership: Agency management focus

- The new Director-General of Health has sought advice from the Ministry on how to improve responsibility for regulatory leadership in her agency. Good performance in regulatory systems depends on institutional form being fit for purpose including appropriate consolidation, and clear alignment between accountability and organisational capability. The Ministry will continue to advise the Director-General of Health's staff on these matters.

Resources: Reviewing academic offerings to the sector

- Victoria University of Wellington's (VUW) public policy programme has previously included a specialisation in regulation. The Ministry has started discussions with VUW about the content and shape of that course. This presents an opportunity to increase the relevance of the content, as well as the targeting of the offering to those who would most benefit from it.
- From the Ministry's oversight of the regulatory sector several such offerings are visible, and risks of overlap and mismatch are important to investigate further. This is particularly the case with the introduction of the Ministry's *Regulatory Practice Essentials* suite of online learning via RegRoom across 2024/25 which provides reliable content for free.

Contact: Alex McMinn, Head of Regulatory System Capability, 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
Modernising Land Management (Conservation)	Economic Policy Committee (ECO) 25 June	<p>This paper seeks several changes to reset the conservation management and planning regime and to resolve issues with concessions administration. We have no concerns, as our views have been reflected in the recommendations.</p> <p>While the focus of this paper is the interaction of concessions with the Crown's Treaty obligations, it also enables greater competitive allocation of concessions. Given the Ministerial direction to unlock economic activity, our interest was in a durable, competitively neutral regime that allocates public resources to their highest value use.</p> <p>S 9(2)(f)(iv)</p>
Charging for access to some public conservation land (Conservation)	Economic Policy Committee (ECO) 16 July	<p>This draft paper seeks approval to enable charging for access to some public conservation land, to increase DOCs funding and to improve equity in cost distribution among users and visitor management.</p> <p>We focused our feedback on ensuring that the benefits of enabling charging will not be eroded by costs of implementing such a system. We have raised concerns about how charging would be implemented and what costs may arise. While DOC has provided initial information, we have raised concerns that the paper does not yet provide sufficient information for Cabinet to understand the costs and benefits of the proposal.</p> <p>We also noted general opposition to charging New Zealanders (who contribute funding through taxation) during public consultation. The draft proposal we were consulted on included options to charge international visitors only, or New Zealanders as well.</p> <p>We can provide an update on this paper for Ministerial consultation (currently planned for 23 June - 3 July).</p>