



# Weekly Report

Proactively Released

|                                 |                   |                         |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Week ending:</b>             | 26 September 2025 | <b>Priority:</b>        | Medium      |
| <b>Security classification:</b> | In confidence     | <b>Tracking number:</b> | MFR2025-267 |

|                                                            |                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Recipient</b>                                           | <b>Action sought</b>                    |
| <b>Hon David Seymour</b><br><b>MINISTER FOR REGULATION</b> | <b>Note</b> the contents of this report |

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

**Minister's comments:**

## Actions

| Action        | Due date | Status update |
|---------------|----------|---------------|
| S 9(2)(f)(iv) |          |               |

## Briefings & Aides-mémoire

| Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation |                                                                        | Date delivered |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| MFR2025-244                                     | Final Hospitality Review Terms of Reference                            | 25 September   |
| MFR2025-265                                     | Talking Points for AgHort Joint Ministers Meeting on 30 September 2025 | 25 September   |

| Papers under development |                                                   | Due date     |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| MFR2025-245              | Final Product Labelling Review Terms of Reference | 30 September |
| S 9(2)(f)(iv)            |                                                   |              |
| S 9(2)(f)(iv)            |                                                   |              |
| S 9(2)(f)(iv)            |                                                   |              |

# Announcements & Engagements

## Ministerial activity

| Date               | Location                        | Details                                                                                       | Opportunity                                                          |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 September – TBC | n/a                             | Product Labelling review - publishing of terms of reference and summary of engagement to date | Ministerial Press Release / Ministry web copy / LinkedIn             |
| 1 October          | Nelson                          | Speech to Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce                                                   | Mention of Red tape tipline issues                                   |
| 2 October          | Marlborough                     | Speech to Marlborough Chamber of Commerce                                                     | Mention of Red tape tipline issues                                   |
| 10 October – TBC   | TBD – business / training venue | Announce next review                                                                          | Joint ministerial media stand up / Press Release + Ministry web copy |

## Ministry for Regulation activity

| Date               | Details                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 September – TBC | Publish terms of reference and summary of engagement Product Labelling Review and accompanying Ministry publicity                            |
| 10 October – TBC   | Announce next review - publish terms of reference and engagement hub opens for consultation                                                  |
| 22 October         | NZIER webinar – Manager Regulatory Stewardship. NZIER third in a series. Topic: Regulatory Stewardship – fit for purpose in a changing world |

The September edition of the Ministry for Regulation Newsletter was sent out on Friday 26 September. A copy of the newsletter is attached for your reference (**Appendix 1**).

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

# Updates

## Telecommunications Review

*For information*

Consultation closed on 25 September. The Review team received a total of 35 submissions in response to the consultation, which they are now processing.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

## Industrial Hemp

*For information*

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Colm Williams, Principal Advisor | Ph: s 9(2)(a)

## Product Labelling Review

*For information*

We provided you with the Terms of Reference last week. We understand that Ministerial consultation has started and will be completed next week. The Review team is continuing to investigate issues raised through engagement.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

## Hospitality Review

*For information*

This week we have provided you with the final version of the Terms of Reference following Ministerial consultation.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are now seeking your approval of this version of the Terms of Reference, which will be published on our website at the time you announce the Review.

As previously agreed, we are arranging a meeting with Hospitality New Zealand, the Restaurant Association, and Hotel Council of New Zealand ahead of the announcement to give them advance

notice of the Review. They are important stakeholders for this Review, and we hope they will support it and want to be involved.

Our Engagement team is continuing to work with your office on a potential date and location for the announcement, and regional hospitality visits.

Contact: Nicola Blackburn, Acting Manager, Regulatory Reviews | Ph: s 9(2)(a)

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## Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Tipline

### *For information*

As of 24 September 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1275 submissions on red tape issues. We currently have 35 investigations underway (relating to 178 public submissions).

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

This week, we briefed your office on the plan to reorientate the RRT function to simplify processes with a sharp focus on outcomes, gathering better quality information from regulated parties, and better service our central agency role through value adding insights on regulatory system pain points.

Contact: Colm Williams, Principal Advisor | Ph: s 9(2)(a)

## Meeting with Indian Government delegation about the World Bank's B Ready survey

### *For information*

The Indian High Commission in Wellington has been in touch with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding the World Bank B-READY Report – the World Bank's flagship publication surveying law and practice relating to regulation affecting businesses (referring to briefing MFR2024-131). The survey will be undertaken in India this year, and India Ministry of Commerce is seeking contact with countries that scored well in the 2024 B-READY report. New Zealand was among these countries, having scored well in the "taxation", "financial services", "business location" and "labour" surveys.

On 22 September 2025 the Ministry for Regulation met with a delegation of New Delhi-based officials to present an overview of the Ministry for Regulation, and to discuss details about MfR's role in administering B-Ready. There was a high level of interest regarding the Ministry's function as a central agency, and its approach to coordination, influence and priority setting. The delegates were tier-3 managers representing India's Ministry of Labour and Employment, Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, and Department for Promotion of Internal Trade and Industry.

Over the week of 22 September the Indian delegation will have also met with Inland Revenue, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss policy and B-READY results relating to tax matters, International Trade settings, and matters of business registration and insolvency. We will report back to you if we learn of important insights arising from those meetings.

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

## Quarter 2 Work Programme

*For discussion*

Following the confirmation and finalisation of the Ministry's key outcomes and FY2025/26 work programme in August, we have completed our work programme review for quarter 2 FY25/26. In **Appendix 2** you will find Q2 milestones for our core delivery streams. We have also included an update on the Q1 milestones. We will provide our first substantive 2025/26 performance report for Q1 in October.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial Services | Ph: s 9(2)(a)

## Audit 2024/25

*For discussion*

The Ministry's audit for 2025 has been completed. We've submitted all final documentation for Audit New Zealand (AuditNZ) to issue their final report. AuditNZ have provided us with their preliminary opinion. There are a few minor matters for the Ministry to address but these are well in hand already. Upon receipt of the final audit opinion, we will finalise the Annual Report and provide you with a final copy. Presentation of the report will need to be done with 15 days of receipt of the final audit opinion from AuditNZ. We will work with your office to arrange presentation.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial Services | Ph: s 9(2)(a)

## Prof Benjamin van Rooij

*For information*

The Ministry met with Prof Benjamin van Rooij on 25 September. He held an open session with Ministry staff sharing insights from his empirical research into people's comprehension of laws and rules, strong and weak influences of behaviour, and how regulated organisations can still create serious harm.

This is an important input into upcoming Ministry work on promoting more effective regulation.

Prof van Rooij is Professor of Law and Society at the University of Amsterdam, and Global Professor of Law at University of California Irvine and was in New Zealand working with Inland Revenue.

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

## Notification of Investigation by the Ombudsman

### *For information*

On 23 September the Ministry was notified that the Ombudsman will be undertaking a “self-initiated investigation into the practices of Ministry for Regulation relating to the Official Information Act 1982”.

The focus of the investigation as specified in the terms of reference will be on how the Ministry’s OIA leadership, culture, and performance monitoring impact practices, processes, and overall compliance.

We are one of five agencies that have been selected for this type of investigation. We do not know who the other agencies are at this stage.

The investigation is due to be undertaken over the next nine months with a final report scheduled to be released by 30 June 2026. The timeline we have been provided is outlined below:

| Activity                                                            | Planned timeframe            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Agency response to questionnaire                                    | Q4 2025 calendar year        |
| Staff response to survey                                            | Q4 2025                      |
| Interviews with key staff                                           | Q4 2025 – Q1 2026            |
| Chief Ombudsman meeting with Chief Executive                        | Q1 2026                      |
| Provisional report provided to your agency                          | Q2 2026                      |
| Receipt of agency comments on draft report                          | Q2 2026                      |
| Provision of final report to your agency                            | By 30 June 2026              |
| Post-investigation monitoring of any actions and/or recommendations | Over the following 12 months |

You will see from the statistics released by the Public Service Commission this week<sup>1</sup> that the Ministry has very high volumes of official information requests, especially when compared to agencies of a similar size or function. For the period of 1 Jan – 30 June 2025,

| OIA requests completed 1 Jan - 30 Jun 2025 (2) | OIA requests completed within legislated timeframe | Percent OIA requests completed within legislated timeframe | OIA request responses published on the agency website | OIA requests subject to an extension | Percent OIA requests subject to an extension | Average working days to respond | Median working days to respond |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 695                                            | 689                                                | 99.1%                                                      | -                                                     | 14                                   | 2.0%                                         | 15.0                            | 14.0                           |

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/news/latest-oia-statistics-released-june-2025>

For this period we have completed the 9<sup>th</sup> highest amount of Official Information Act responses in the core Public Service.

#### Public Service Departments

|                                                                    |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Department of Corrections                                          | 8,423      |
| New Zealand Customs Service                                        | 1,935      |
| Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment                    | 1,381      |
| Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga   Ministry of Education                  | 1,280      |
| Ministry for Primary Industries                                    | 1,026      |
| Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora                                 | 1,017      |
| Ministry of Social Development                                     | 996        |
| Te Tāhū o te Ture - Ministry of Justice                            | 805        |
| <b>Ministry for Regulation</b>                                     | <b>695</b> |
| Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs                   | 538        |
| Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai                         | 463        |
| Te Tai Ōhanga   The Treasury                                       | 332        |
| Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade                              | 247        |
| Inland Revenue — Te Tari Taake                                     | 205        |
| Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet                       | 202        |
| Ministry for the Environment — Manatū Mō Te Taiao                  | 199        |
| Oranga Tamariki-Ministry for Children                              | 190        |
| Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission                          | 146        |
| Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand                       | 137        |
| Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development | 121        |
| The Ministry of Transport Te Manatū Waka                           | 101        |
| Ministry of Defence Manatū Kaupapa Waonga                          | 99         |
| Te Puni Kōkiri-Ministry of Māori Development                       | 91         |
| Crown Law Te Tari Ture o te Karauna                                | 84         |
| Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa                                       | 59         |
| Ministry of Disabled People – Whaikaha                             | 50         |
| Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage                    | 45         |
| New Zealand Security Intelligence Service                          | 44         |
| Education Review Office                                            | 40         |
| Serious Fraud Office — Te Tari Hara Tāware                         | 36         |
| Government Communications Security Bureau                          | 30         |
| Ministry for Pacific Peoples                                       | 28         |
| Ministry for Women Manatū Wāhine                                   | 23         |
| Social Investment Agency                                           | 22         |

While the Ministry welcomes this scrutiny, we are concerned about the resourcing implications and the impact on delivery, especially over the next quarter. We have written back to the Ombudsman with the information they have requested at this stage. We understand the Ombudsman has also notified you of this investigation.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial Services | Ph: s 9(2)(a)