



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 17 October 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-285

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
A2025-327 RSB Board: MfR to scope draft Terms of Reference for the Board	October	Complete [MFR2025-275]
A2025-328 Progressing deregulatory options: MfR to further develop options and discuss with the Office	October	In progress
s 9(2)(f)(iv), s 9(2)(g)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation	Date delivered
MFR2025-273 Talking points for meeting with Hon Goldsmith on 15 October re Telecommunications Recommendations	14 October
MFR2025-266 Vote Regulation: October Baseline Update	15 October
MFR2025-280 Final steps for the Ministry for Regulation's Annual Report	15 October
S 9(2)(f)(iv)	

Papers delivered to the Ministers Office	Date delivered
MFR2025-283 Information Release: Cabinet Paper - Sector Reviews Product Labelling and the Hospitality sector	15 October
MFR2025-281 Information Release: Regulatory Standards Bill Proactive Release of Further Key Advice Papers October 2025	16 October
S 9(2)(f)(iv)	

Papers under development	Due date
MFR2025-282 Regulatory Standards Bill - Update and further decision ahead of remaining legislative steps	21 October
MFR2025-247 Regulatory Standards Bill - fees options for Regulatory Standards Board	23 October
MFR2025-268 Further decisions on non-statutory requirements to support the Regulatory Standards Bill [name TBC]	23 October
MFR2025-277 Regulatory Standards Bill: proposed approach to implementing Subpart 3 - regulatory stewardship and plans for regularly reviewing legislation	23 October
S 9(2)(f)(iv)	
MFR2025-284 Regulatory Systems Amendment Bills Guidance to be published	31 October

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
October - November	Various	Ongoing Ministerial engagement with hospitality sector	Regional events with chambers/hospitality businesses
TBC	Wellington	Regulatory Standards Bill returns to House for subsequent readings	Ministerial press release when Bill passes Third Reading

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
October - November	Ongoing engagement direct and online with hospitality sector
22 October	The New Zealand Institute of Economic Research webinar: Manager Regulatory Stewardship - <i>Regulatory Stewardship – fit for purpose in a changing world</i>
23 October	Institute of Directors Wellington Branch: Chief Executive to attend a guest speaker at next Senior Directors and Distinguished Fellow lunch - <i>Reflections on journey to date</i>
3 November	Business New Zealand: Chief Executive - 25th Anniversary of the Voice of Business
5 November	Rā Ratonga Tūmatanui Public Service Day Awards 2025 – Chief Executive

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

Updates

Annual Report 2024/25

For information

The Ministry has completed its first annual report. The Ministry's Annual Report 2024/25 was submitted to your office this week for presentation to the House of Representatives (MFR2025-280). The Ministry was exempted from preparing an annual report last year due to its initial establishment phase. Therefore, this year's report covers the period from 1 March 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The Annual Report is required to be presented to the House of Representatives by 21 October 2025. Once presented, our statutory requirements under the Public Finance Act 1989 will be met.

The Annual Report includes an unmodified opinion from Audit New Zealand. The Audit Report gave the Ministry one of the highest ratings possible, with two minor areas for improvement, both of which have already been resolved.

Audit New Zealand noted that *"The annual report, in our view, is comprehensive, well balanced, informative and provides a fair representation of the Ministry's activities, achievements and financial results for the 16-month period. The Ministry prepared well for the year-end audit and worked in a collaborative manner with the Audit Team. This helped improve the transparency, understandability, and usefulness of information as presented in your annual report"*.

You will shortly receive a letter from the Office of the Auditor General to formally inform you of the audit result.

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

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

Reporting on obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

New Zealand is required to regularly report to the United Nations on how our human rights obligations under the ICCPR are being fulfilled. The Ministry of Justice is currently preparing New Zealand's next report which is due in April 2026.

The United Nations has provided a list of matters for the report to address which includes the expected impacts of the Regulatory Standards Bill (RSB) on article 25 of the ICCPR – right to participate in public life. The Ministry of Justice has drafted this section using publicly available information and explanatory material about the RSB that has been prepared previously.

Next steps

We are currently reviewing the draft report with departmental feedback due by 27 October. The report will then be finalised for ministerial consultation with a draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement for public consultation on the report later this year. The report will be finalised early next year.

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

Early Childhood Education (ECE) Review

For information

This week we provided you with advice on the ECE Review licensing criteria and attended Ministry of Education's (MoE) agency meeting with you, as Associate Minister of Education to discuss this. A way forward has been agreed, and we understand that MoE is updating its briefing to you to reflect the changes discussed.

Following your direction that the Ministry for Regulation should lead the December 2025 report back to the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee on the implementation of the review, we met with MoE and the Education Review Office (ERO) this week to discuss the approach. We have requested documentation from both agencies which will inform our report back. We expect to hear from them by close of business 17 October. Following that, we will begin drafting the report and circulate it for MoE and ERO's initial thoughts.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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

Hospitality Review

For information

On Wednesday, 15 October the Hospitality Review was announced, and the terms of reference were published. Engagement with stakeholders continues. We have met with local hospitality businesses in Wellington, as well as the Food Truck League (the peak body representing food

trucks) and Clubs New Zealand. We have further meetings lined up for the coming week, including with the New Zealand Specialty Coffee Association.

Now that the Review has been announced and the engagement material is live on our website, we will increase our engagement with the sector. This initial engagement period closes on 12 November 2025. We received a submission regarding ^{s 9(2)(f)(iv)} and have received 39 submissions to date.

We have also set up the Senior Officials Group, comprised of representatives from MBIE, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry for Primary Industries. The group will meet monthly, with the first meeting scheduled for the end of this month.

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | Ph: ^{S 9(2)(a)}

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team continues to progress investigations across all areas of scope. As part of our status quo assessment, we have conducted workshops on issues with Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry of Health (MoH), and its regulatory unit Medsafe, with some external engagement planned with regulated parties.

^{S 9(2)(b)(ii)}



Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | Ph: ^{S 9(2)(a)}

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

S 9(2)(f)(iv)



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

S 9(2)(f)(iv)



Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 14 October 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1321 submissions on red tape issues.

We currently have 27 investigations underway (relating to 179 public submissions).

Some of the issues we are currently investigating are:

S 9(2)(f)(iv)



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