



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 5 December 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-330

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
A2025-387	MfR to provide more information on first principles/zero-basing analysis done as part of the product labelling review	4 December	In progress

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-326	New Government Procurement Rules: 5th Edition	1 December
MFR2025-302	Regulation portfolio bids seeking placement on the 2026 Legislation Programme	2 December
MFR2025-310	Hospitality Review: Issues to be included for further analysis	4 December
MFR2025-322	Decisions and next steps for regulatory reviews 7 and 8	4 December
MFR2025-328	Low Complexity briefing coversheet December 2025	4 December

Papers delivered to the Ministers Office		Date delivered
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Papers under development		
MFR2025-333	Interview Panel for the Regulatory Standards Board	8 December
MFR2025-313	Product Labelling Review Final Report	TBC
MFR2025-331	Budget 2026 Ministerial Submission Letter	11 December
MFR2025-332	Update and further decisions on exemptions to the Regulatory Standards Act	11 December

Monthly highlights for November 2025

Implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act

- Regulatory Standards Act (RSA) 2025 enacted
- Project team established and work in full flight on the appointment of the Regulatory Standards Board and the establishment of the Ministry's support function
- Briefing provided on implementation of the regulatory stewardship requirements under the RSA
- Briefing provided on changes to the regulatory impact analysis process to focus it around the RSA
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

4 Sector Reviews per annum

Telecommunications

- Final draft report provided to joint Ministers
- Cabinet paper prepared and agency consultation carried out, with a view to lodging the paper at Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee in early 2026

Product Labelling

- Initial outline of draft report with findings and recommendations prepared and discussed with the Office and other agencies
- Ongoing work with Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Business Innovation Employment and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on an exemption to the Food Act 2014 to allow digital labelling trial and support entry of new supermarket to New Zealand market

Hospitality

- Sector consultation completed, with great engagement - 183 submissions received

16 Deregulatory outcomes

- Industrial hemp deregulation approved by Cabinet
- 1453 issues raised through the red tape tipline, with another bundle of 6 deregulatory proposals currently being put together.

Building system capability

- Chief Executive on panel for the Australia and New Zealand School of Government Executive Masters of Public Management
- Chief Advisor presents to Singapore Civil Service College group
- Ministry hosts Economic Research Community Event
- Deputy Chief Executive Policy met counterparts from Ireland, UK and the Netherlands, and attended regulation-focused Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development symposium
- Chief Advisor and Chief Economist attended a virtual meeting with the Office of Regulatory Management, our counterparts in Virginia.

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
11 December	Ashburton	iHemp announcement	We are working with your office to plan an event with industry and media in attendance
TBC December	Wellington	List of priorities agreed by Ministers for Hospitality Review next year	Joint Ministerial media release

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
TBC December	Latest Quarterly report of Red Tape Tipline data
9 December	University of Canterbury Regulatory Economics - CEO Forum – Chief Economist and Chief Executive – Sector Reviews and What they Mean for Businesses

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

Updates

Regulatory Standards Act 2025

For information

We are initiating agency consultation on the draft Cabinet paper for a new Cabinet Office circular, to support implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act. We will brief you early in 2026 on the outcomes. To support this process and broader understanding of the requirements in the Act, we are hosting an online information session for public service agencies before Christmas.

Alongside agency consultation on the Cabinet paper, we are undertaking detailed implementation planning to support a timely and smooth transition to the new system settings post-Cabinet decisions. This includes working through changes required to existing digital tools (i.e, RIAOnline), operating models, process guidelines, and training materials.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We remain on-track to provide initial advice to you on exemptions from the Consistency Accountability Statement requirements via a Notice by the end of next week.

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

Regulatory Standards Board Establishment

For information

The advertisement for positions on the Regulatory Standard Board will go live next Monday, 8 December. Your office has been provided with the approved position descriptions for sharing with your Cabinet and coalition colleagues.

Advice on appointing the panel for interviewing Board candidates will be sent to your office on Monday 8 December.

Contact: Anshuman Chakraborty, Head of Legal & Board Establishment | s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

You and Minister Upston have received our advice on the issues we recommend taking forward for further analysis. The pack included a summary of the submissions received and a list of all the issues we have reviewed and prioritised, scored against the Ministry's analytical framework. Both appendices should be read together. In drafting this advice we consulted relevant agencies, including the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment, the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry of Justice, and the Department of Internal Affairs.

We are meeting with you on 8 December 2025 to take you through our approach, the list of issues, and expedite decisions. Minister Upston has been invited to this meeting – your office will confirm

her attendance as soon as possible. This meeting will also be an opportunity to discuss why some issues have not been recommended for further work. Decisions will be required before Christmas to maintain momentum of the Review.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

We are working with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Commerce Commission to provide further advice requested by your office on consumer protection and proposals relating to the Telecommunications Development Levy. This will be provided to by 10 December 2025.

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

Future Reviews

For information

On 4 December 2025, we provided you with advice on possible topics for future regulatory reviews. We plan to discuss these with you at the agency meeting of 9 December 2025.

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

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

We are working with your office to arrange for you to announce the industrial hemp deregulation with industry representatives at the Hemp NZ Food Factory in Ashburton on 11 December. We are also continuing to work with other agencies on the implementation of the policy.

Contact: Adam Jackson, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive | s 9(2)(a)

Product Labelling Review

For information

We are actively working through the feedback provided by various agencies in response to the draft report. The agencies consulted during this process include the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), Department of Internal Affairs, and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

Earlier this week, we met with you to discuss our key findings and recommendations arising from the review.

[Commercially Sensitive] We continue to work closely with MPI, MBIE, and MFAT on an exemption to the Food Act 2014 that will allow a digital labelling trial and support the entry of a new supermarket into the New Zealand market. Consultation on the trial is now open. MPI has established a governance group to oversee the design, implementation and evaluation of the exemption; we are a member of this group.

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

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 3 December 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1,453 submissions on potential red tape issues. We currently have 26 low-complexity reviews underway (relating to 195 public submissions). You received the most recent deregulatory bundle on 4 December 2025.

Some of the issues we are currently reviewing include:

- s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
- s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

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

Draft Cabinet paper consultations

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

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

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