



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 12 December 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-335

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	
A2025-390	Leg Bids: To reissue (or provide new) briefing on legislative bids for approval and submission	9 December	Complete [MFR2025-334]
A2025-389	If invitations are accepted, brief Ministers Upston, McKee and Hoggard on the Hospitality Review.	18 December	In progress
A2025-387	MfR to provide more information on first principles/zero-basing analysis done as part of the product labelling review.	29 January	In progress
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-333	Interview panel for the Regulatory Standards Board	8 December
MFR2025-334	Revised – Bids seeking placement on the 2026 Legislation Programme	9 December
MFR2025-331	Budget 2026 Savings Initiative	11 December
MFR2025-332	Update and further decisions on exclusions to the Regulatory Standards Act	11 December

Papers delivered to the Ministers Office		Date delivered
A2025-381	Telecommunications Review: Further information requested for the draft Cabinet paper	11 December
MFR2025-336	Proposed approach to exemption decisions regarding impact analysis requirements	11 December

Papers under development		Due
MFR2025-337	Draft Strategic Intentions	15 December
MFR2025-313	Product Labelling Review Final Report	29 January 2026

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Nothing further planned for remainder of 2025. We will continue to work with your office to plan events for 2026.

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
TBC (December)	Latest quarterly report of Red Tape Tipline data

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

Updates

Regulatory Standards Board Establishment

For information

Work progressed on establishing the Regulatory Standards Board this week, with the ad being published on several channels, including the Ministry career site, jobs.govt.nz, Appoint Better Boards, the Institute of Directors, and the five public sector board nomination services.

Following your direction of the interview panel (MFR2025-333 refers), we are engaging with those individuals and aim to get interview times held before the end of the year.

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

Hospitality Review

For information

Following our meeting on 8 December 2025, we will proceed with further analysis shortly on the 17 issues we recommended in our advice (MFR2025-310 refers). s 9(2)(f)(iv)

As discussed, we are available to meet with individual portfolio Ministers (Ministers Upston, McKee, and Hoggard) if they wish, to take them through our advice. We are engaging through the appropriate channels to see which Ministers want to take up that opportunity. In the interim, we recommend a copy of the advice is forwarded to them as well as Ministers van Velden, Goldsmith and Penk for their awareness.

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has advised that Minister Upston's office has requested supplementary advice on our briefing.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

On 10 December we provided your office with further advice requested on proposals relating to consumer protection and the Telecommunications Development Levy.

Once we receive decisions on options from you and Minister Goldsmith, we will revise the draft Cabinet paper. We are planning for Ministerial consultation to take place in the new year, with a view to present the paper at the first Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) meeting of the new year on 10 February 2026.

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

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

Following your announcement of the partial deregulation of the industrial hemp sector in Ashburton this week, we are working with Ministry of Health, Ministry for Primary Industries and New Zealand Police on aspects of implementation, with the Ministry of Health responsible for progressing the

drafting and approval of the regulatory amendment. The announcement has also put the spotlight on other potential regulatory change around industrial hemp and medicinal cannabis.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team are making amendments to the final report to address your feedback. Consultation will take place with agencies in the new year. At our meeting on 8 December 2025, you agreed to an extension to the due date of the report to allow for this, which has now been deferred to 29 January 2026. As discussed, this will not affect the overall timeline for the review provided that agencies can engage in consultation in the new year. s 9(2)(g)(i)

[Commercially Sensitive] Consultation on a digital labelling trial to support the entry of a new supermarket into the New Zealand market remains open and will close on 19 December 2025. Cross-agency governance arrangements have been established, led by New Zealand Food Safety. A meeting was held on 12 December. Progress is also being made on the Exemptions Regulations.

The Ministry for Primary Industries met with the New Zealand Food Grocery Council (NZFGC) to discuss the upcoming trial. s 9(2)(g)(i)

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

Future Reviews

For information

Following our meeting on 8 December 2025 and your decisions to proceed with reviews on the s 9(2)(f)(iv)

we are scoping the next steps for reviews 7 and 8. We will begin developing the terms of references shortly, and confirm indicative timings and when you can expect to receive these early next year.

Contact: Cherie Engelbrecht, Acting 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)
- s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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