

**Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 17 April 2026**

Week ending	17 April 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-082

Recipient	Action sought
Hon David Seymour Minister for Regulation	Note the contents of this report

Contact for discussion if required

Name	Position	Phone number
Aisling Risdon	Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services	s 9(2)(a)

Comments

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Actions

No actions this week.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services, s 9(2)(a)

Papers delivered and under development

Delivered to the Minister for Regulation

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-079	Withdrawal of candidate for appointment to the Regulatory Standards Board	15/04/2026
MFR2026-076	RSA Implementation: Regulatory Standards (Excluded Legislation) Notice 2026	16/04/2026
MFR2026-062	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey for the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026	17/04/2026
MFR2026-074	Certification of Vote Regulation for Budget 2026	17/04/2026
MFR2026-083	Fuel work: Ministry for Regulation leadership, progress, and visibility	17/04/2025

Delivered to the office of the Minister for Regulation

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-073	Information Release: Cabinet papers on Regulatory Standards Act implementation	13/04/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-081	Information Release: Regulatory Standards Board Appointments - Key advice papers	23/04/2026
MFR2026-084	Regulatory Standards Act Implementation: Statutory Guidance for final sign-off	24/04/2026
MFR2026-080	AI in Regulatory Practice Guidance	29/04/2026

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Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
20 April	Wellington	Announcement of Regulatory Standards Board membership Launch of Board complaints portal	Ministerial press release Ministry for Regulation web copy on biographies Board complaints portal goes live (TBC)
29 April	Wellington	Announcement of Regulatory Standards Act and new Cabinet Circular implementation	Ministerial press release
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
May (TBC)	Parliament	Regulatory mapping event (TBC)	
May (TBC)	Parliament	Sandbox launch event (TBC)	
May (TBC)	TBC	Solar panels announcement	Announcement at event Full communications package

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
29 April	Announcement of Regulatory Standards Act and new Cabinet Circular implementation – public and private sector communications
May (TBC)	Regulatory mapping event (TBC)
May (TBC)	Sandbox launch event (TBC)
May (TBC)	Solar panels announcement communications

Contact: Erina O'Donohue Head of Communications and Engagement - s 9(2)(a)

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Updates

Regulatory Standards Act 2025 Implementation

For information

We continue to progress key material supporting the implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 (the Act). We have now provided agencies with an initial package of non-statutory guidance to support implementation of the Act's requirements for their review. We are finalising drafts of further non-statutory guidance relating to review and regulatory stewardship obligations under the Act, publication requirements for Regulatory Analysis Summaries and Consistency Accountability Statements, and consultation and advance notice requirements. We intend to circulate these to agencies for feedback shortly.

Work is continuing to finalise the statutory guidance, focusing on additional examples to address agency feedback [MFR2026-060 refers].

You have been provided with an updated Exclusions Notice. Subject to your approval the Notice should be presented to the House of Representatives on the next available sitting day – Tuesday 21 April 2026. Your office has been provided with an update on the next steps, including the need to secure House time for the approval of the Notice in late May or June 2026.

Contact: Pip van der Scheer, Manager, Regulatory Management System, s 9(2)(a)

Telecommunications Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Ministry attended an event hosted by the New Zealand Telecommunications Forum on 16 April to discuss the Review. The Forum members were broadly supportive of the Review recommendations. Questions mainly focused on the recommendations that have been deferred or not progressed and on the timeline for implementing the recommendations.

We will continue to work the MBIE and the Commerce Commission on implementation.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

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Hospitality Review

For information

We are continuing with our analysis of options, including an assessment of the costs and benefits. We are on track to test these options through targeted engagement next month.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Mapping New Zealand's Regulatory Landscape

For information

We continue to make good progress with the focus now on the drafting of the report. We are discussing the work we have completed with the Senior Officials Group, followed by a discussion with our Expert Advisory Group on Tuesday. Our intention is to then discuss an early draft of the report with your office during the week of 26 April.

We will also work closely with your office to support the launch of the report. Your office is currently confirming the date and venue.

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

Medium Complexity Reviews

For information

We are continuing to progress medium complexity reviews into solar panels s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are identifying regulatory barriers to achieving the goal of New Zealand having the simplest approval pathway for installation of small-scale solar panels for both residential and commercial properties.

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We are engaging with agencies responsible for solar panel regulation ahead of your announcement of the review, with a view to having indicative recommendations for your speech at Electrify Queenstown on 18 May 2026.

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

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 15 April 2026, the Ministry has received a total of 1,602 submissions on potential red tape issues.

On 29 March 2026, the Red Tape Tipline submission form was updated to introduce two submission pathways. Submitters are now able either to provide structured information (such as the relevant legislation, responsible regulator, and preferred resolution) or to submit a simple description of their issue and any suggested solution if they do not have this information. The change was made to improve the quality of information received while keeping the tipline accessible.

Since the update, 32 submissions have been received, with around half providing more detailed regulatory information. This indicates the change is working as intended, supporting quicker assessment, reducing follow-up, and improving the Ministry's ability to spot recurring system-level issues without deterring participation.

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

Regulatory System Capability

For information

RegRoom

Reg Room continues to show strong and sustained uptake. As at 13 April 2026, the platform has 1,278 users, with 7,740 logins recorded over the three-month period January–March 2026, indicating regular and repeat engagement rather than one-off use.

Download activity across the Quick Guides remains strong, with highest engagement on:

- Regulatory Approaches,
- Models and Tools,
- Regulation in New Zealand, and
- Evidence-informed Regulatory Practice.

In RegRoom, the learning modules with the strongest engagement are:

- Regulation in New Zealand,
- Regulatory Compliance Activities, and
- Regulatory Systems and Stewardship

suggesting that users accessing structured learning are primarily focused on building a shared understanding of core regulatory concepts. Taken together, this pattern indicates broad uptake

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across the regulatory workforce, with Quick Guides supporting practitioners who already have baseline knowledge, while learning modules are being used to build foundational capability.

To understand the impact of this activity and to continue to grow reach and engagement, we are engaging with agencies that have larger user cohorts or higher completion rates to understand their implementation approaches and gather feedback. This engagement is helping to inform the development of clearer learning pathways, encouraging progression from introductory material to more targeted, specialist modules, and supporting more consistent capability uplift across the regulatory system.

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

Regulatory Sandbox Guidance

For information

The Ministry published new guidance on Regulatory Sandboxes on 19 March 2026. The guidance is aimed at Ministers and agency leaders.

Since publication, there have been 198 downloads, signalling immediate uptake and interest from users.

The release of the guidance and direct circulation to agency leaders has had the desired effect of stimulating attention to innovation. In the weeks since release the guidance has been part of conversations with Business Canterbury, NZ Food Safety, Electricity Authority, and Immigration New Zealand.

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

Fuel security response

For information

The Ministry is leading the cross-agency work on relaxing regulatory settings to remove non-essential barriers to fuel efficiency while maintaining core protections. This is examining both the temporary relaxation and potential for permanent change in regulations.

We are also working with agencies on guidance for local authorities around adapting their inspection and wider enforcement actions to reduce fuel use s 9(2)(f)(iv). In parallel, we are looking for any regulatory barriers that could be relaxed in addition to providing guidance, s 9(2)(g)(i).

The Ministry continues to monitor and analyse fuel tips to the tipline. Since 29 March 2026, 107 tips have been received. We are also reaching out to some key businesses and business groups directly.

We have provided you with an aide memoire with more detailed information about our work in this area [MFR2026-083].

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