

Weekly Report

MFR2026-119

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 5 June 2026

Week ending	5 June 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	in confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-119

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 ministerial 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 over the past two weeks

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-080	Promoting responsible AI – guidance for regulators	22/05/2026
MFR2026-114	Vote Regulation 2026/27 – Responses to Standard Estimates Questionnaire	26/05/2026
MFR2026-120	Vote Regulation 2026-27 - Responses to supplementary written questions	05/06/2026

Delivered to the office of the Minister for Regulation over the past two weeks

Reference	Title	Date delivered
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-113	Second package of non-statutory guidance to support implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act and new Cabinet Circular	28/05/2026
MFR2026-115	Vote Regulation 2026/27 – Draft responses to supplementary pre-hearing questions	03/05/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-116	Regulatory Reviews Team Proactive Release 1/3 - Regulatory Reviews Team Weekly Reports	08/06/2026
MFR2026-121	Information Release: Regulatory Standards Act – Key Advice Papers Batch 2	08/06/2026
MFR2026-117	Final steps for the Ministry for Regulation's Strategic Intentions	08/06/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-100	Letter to Chief Executives on Regulatory Standards Act implementation	11/06/2026
MFR2026-101	Removing offensive trades from the Health Act 1956	12/06/2026

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Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial Activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
June (TBC)	TBC	Publication of solar review recommendations	Media release/opportunity

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
June	Ministry for Regulation Strategic Intentions published
June (TBC)	Thought piece “Distortionary Costs of Regulation” - Ministry for Regulation Chief Economist
10 June	Chief Executive on facilitated Leadership Development Centre master class panel about leading in the context of Artificial Intelligence
10 June	Chief Executive to the Financial Markets Authority leadership team – session on good regulation in practice.

Engagement Summary

Over the past few weeks, we’ve seen a steep change in the Ministry’s external engagement, including the launch of our regulatory landscape work at the Beehive and presentations to BusinessNZ and MinterEllisonRuddWatts. These have landed well and are strengthening the position of the Ministry as a central agency and system leader, while reinforcing a clearer, shared understanding of the scale and complexity of New Zealand’s regulatory system and where improvement effort should be focused next. We will proactively continue this approach for the rest of the year.

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

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Updates

Financial Expenditure Committee Hearing Preparation

For information

On 4 June 2026, you received a letter from the Finance and Expenditure Committee confirming your invitation to the Vote Regulation Estimates hearing on Tuesday, 16 June, 9:15-10:00am. Acting Chief Executive, Andrew Royle and Deputy Chief Executive Organisational Enablement, Paula Knaap are the officials that will join you for the hearing.

26 Standard Estimates Questions were lodged on 29 May with 83 Supplementary Questions due back to the committee on 11 June. We provided you with the proposed answers to the supplementary questions this week for your approval and lodgement by 11 June.

We will use the Agency meeting time on 15 June to run through any preparation for the hearing.

A second Estimates hearing with the Ministry will be held on 1 July.

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

Regulatory Standards Act Implementation

For information

The second tranche of non-statutory guidance went live on our website on 5 June 2026. This covers plans for reviewing existing legislation and guidance on consultation, international obligations, and advanced regulatory plans.

The Ministry is also undertaking outreach and capability building for stakeholders who will be subject to the new requirements from 1 July 2026.

On 22 May 2026, we delivered a webinar hosted by the Policy Project, which was attended by over 300 participants. There are further sessions scheduled through June which go more in-depth on specific areas of the new system.

Contact: Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive Policy, [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Hospitality Review

For information

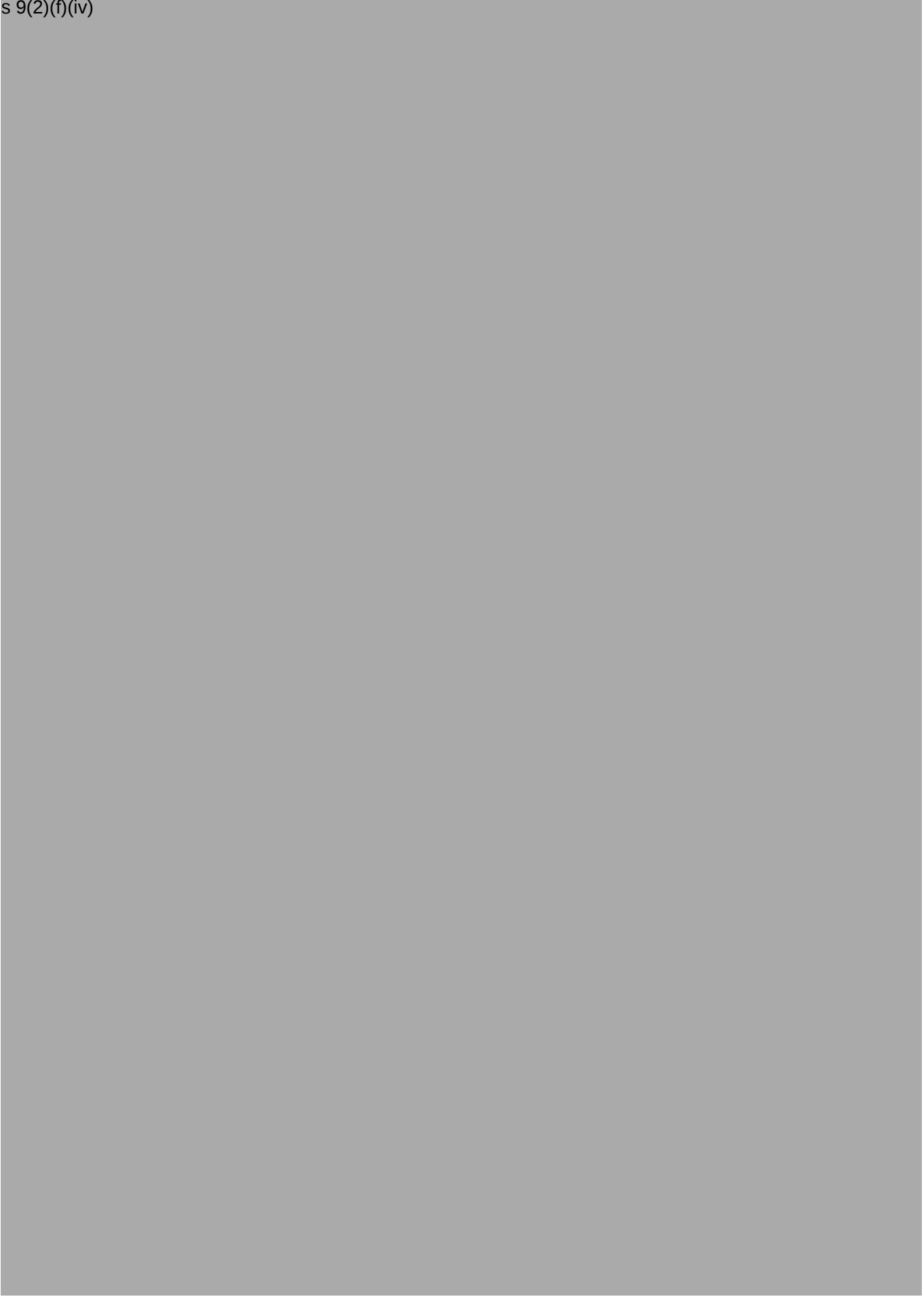
[s 9\(2\)\(f\)\(iv\)](#)



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

Regulatory Mapping

For information

Following the successful launch of ‘*The State of New Zealand’s Regulatory Systems*’ on 20 May 2026, there has been strong positive coverage and commentary across both media and professional blogs, including Deborah Te Kawa’s piece, *The Plumbing Made Visible*. Ms Kawa noted that “the report’s three-dimensional analysis of complexity, examining legislative growth, structural distribution, and lifecycle fragmentation—provides a framework for understanding how the system produces its outcomes.”

Media coverage has also reflected the significance of the work. Writing in *The Post*, Luke Malpass highlighted the scale of the system and the value of the mapping in making the breadth and complexity of New Zealand’s regulatory state visible.

More broadly, the work is being recognised as world-leading in providing, for the first time, a clear and consistent view of the structure and scale of regulation in New Zealand. It has been particularly valued for making the system visible - highlighting how responsibilities are distributed, where interdependencies sit, and where fragmentation and coordination pressures are emerging. s 9(2)(a) of the UK Institute for Regulation, described the work as “what cutting-edge regulatory improvement looks like”.

We have also received requests from Australian officials and agencies such as the Treasury, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet to meet and discuss the work. Their interest has been in how our mapping can be used to support more deliberate system stewardship and inform future priorities.

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

We have largely completed the engagement phase of the review. This included approximately 15 meetings with regulated parties and sector bodies, and an online survey with 200 responses –

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largely from members of the public and individuals working in the sector. We are meeting with the Australian Clean Energy Regulator on 5 June 2026.

Following your meeting with Rewiring Aotearoa, we investigated two issues commissioned by your advisors, being:

- (a) Confirm if the level of financial regulation is the same respective of the sum (within a \$1-\$1m range); and
- (b) Indicate what is the principal legislation setting out these requirements (eg CCCFA, AML).

Our finding was that the relevant financial regulation is applies consistently regardless of the value of the loan. That is, lower value loans for solar must meet the same requirements as higher value loans.

In answer to the second question, the principal legislation that is relevant is the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 and associated regulations, Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009 and the Responsible Lending Code.

Following a discussion with your advisors, we propose that we provide an assessment of the problem in our report but not propose specific solutions in relation to the legislation and regulations.

The focus for the next two weeks will be on drafting the report and Cabinet paper.

As previously indicated, following agency consultation, we intend to provide you with a report and Cabinet paper on 2 July 2026, with the intention of the Cabinet paper being considered at EXP on 21 July and Cabinet on 27 July.

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

Offensive Trades Review

For information

The Ministry of Health have provided us with their final position and confirmed they endorse removing all 19 offensive trades from Schedule 3 of the Health Act 1956. This will effectively remove registration requirements for all regulated parties. We are finalising a joint briefing to you and Minister Brown that seeks approval for this change via Order in Council. This will be provided to your office on 12 June 2026.

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

Artificial Intelligence in Regulatory Practice Guidance

For information

The Ministry published *Responsible AI in Action* on 27 May 2026. In the week since publication, the guidance has received considerable attention across professional and technical communities in New Zealand and internationally. The commentary has been overwhelmingly positive.

Feedback online has highlighted the practical utility of the guidance. For example, a New Zealand regulatory strategy commentator, assessing AI guidance from the European Union, Canada, and New Zealand, described the Ministry's work as "the most practitioner-ready of the three". A weekly AI newsletter noted that the guidance marks a shift in the official posture from encouraging exploration to defining the appropriate lane for AI use, and that drawing a clear line between rules-

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based triage and human judgement gives regulators something to act on rather than aspire to. A professional services consultancy working with regulators across New Zealand noted that the guidance arrives at the right moment to support agencies to shift from initial curiosity about AI into the harder question of how to use it well.

The guidance has also attracted international interest, with one senior Australian regulatory leader identifying it as a good resource for Australian regulators.

Some stakeholders have expressed a desire to have input into this work as it develops. The Ministry welcomes that engagement and will continue to engage with interested parties as the guidance is updated over time.

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

Red Tape Tipline (including the fuel tipline)

For information

As of 3 June 2026, the Ministry had received

- 1,645 submissions on potential red tape issues (including 19 in the last fortnight), and
- 127 fuel-related tips since the remit of the tipline expanded on 29 March 2026 (including 8 in the last fortnight).

We are now progressing the deregulatory options you decided to proceed with from the May deregulatory bundle, being:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We will provide you with letters to send to the relevant Ministers in the 12 June weekend bag.

We are working towards the next bundle of deregulatory options to be delivered to you in late July.

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