

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 4 September 2026

Week ending	4 September 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	~~in confidence~~	Tracking number	MFR2026-168

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



Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

Actions

Reference	Action	Due date	Status update
A2026-143	AgHort: Short progress update, stats on improvements made since AgHort Review was completed.	-	Complete. See Future Reviews Pipeline section in Updates below.
A2026-145	Hospitality Review Cabinet paper - Bullet points to support Ministers at Cabinet Economic Policy Committee meeting.	28/08/2026	Complete.
A2026-148	2-pager that summarises at a high-level the key progress and activities undertaken in the Regulation Portfolio since January 2024.	04/09/2025	Complete.
A2026-146	Provide information on the intended working arrangements with MoJ on implementing the alcohol recommendations from the Hospitality Review.	-	In progress.
A2026-144	Solar Review: Bullet points on what specific recommendations expected to address issues, to support Office drafting response letters.	04/09/2026	In progress.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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
MFR2026-167	Treatment of commencement orders under the Regulatory Standards (Excluded Legislation) Notice 2026	01/09/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-165	Future review pipeline progress	23/09/2026
MFR2026-169	Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report - 18 September 2026	18/09/2026

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial Activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
September 7	TBC	Publication of Product Labelling Review Report	Media release/ opportunity
September (Date TBC)	TBC	Publication of Hospitality Review Report	Media release/ opportunity

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
September 7	Publication of Product Labelling Review report
September 14	Guest lecture Victoria University School of Government – Chief Executive
September 17	Second in a series of breakfasts focused on AI for regulatory leaders, jointly hosted by MartinJenkins and the Ministry for Regulation – Chief Executive
September (TBC)	Publication of Hospitality Review Report
September (TBC)	Thought piece “Distortionary Costs of Regulation” - Chief Economist

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

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

Updates

Update on including Regulatory Stewardship in Chief Executive Performance Expectations

For information

The Regulatory Standards Act 2025 strengthens regulatory stewardship obligations and the review of existing legislation against the principles of responsible regulation. To drive significant change in how existing regulation is reviewed across government, the Ministry is prioritising engagement with major regulatory agencies.

In July, the Public Service Commissioner and the Secretary for Regulation wrote to the chief executives of major regulatory agencies outlining expectations for regulatory stewardship [MFR2026-100 refers]. Alongside this, the Ministry has been working with the Public Service Commission to include regulatory stewardship in chief executive performance expectations.

As at 31 August, a regulatory system stewardship section has been included in the finalised template for the performance expectations of chief executives of major regulatory agencies. This section includes actions and success indicators to help ensure agencies' regulatory systems are proportionate and fit for purpose, as well as supporting economic growth, productivity, and effective public sector performance. Currently, the Public Service Commission is working with individual chief executives to confirm expectations for the year.

We continue to support agencies at the working level as they develop plans for reviewing existing legislation and implement regulatory stewardship arrangements. We expect the first review plans to be published in early 2027.

Contact: Timothy McGiven, Acting Manager Regulatory Stewardship, s 9(2)(a)

Agricultural and Horticultural Products Review

For information

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has shared their *Agricultural compounds and veterinary medicines (ACVM) end of year progress report* with us, which provides an overview of their progress towards implementing the recommendations from the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Review. A copy of this report has been shared with your office.

Seven of the fifteen recommendations allocated to MPI have been delivered. One recommendation – to explore a strategic priority pathway – has been placed on hold following the decision not to progress the recommendation taken by the Sector Leaders Forum. The remaining recommendations have been partly delivered.

One of the primary recommendations of the review was to reduce the ACVM application queue. While the target for the year to 30 June 2025 (a queue reduction of 20%) was achieved in the previous year, the target for the year to 30 June 2026 (a queue reduction of 30%) was not achieved. MPI is allocating additional resource to improve timeliness, efficiency, and user experience in the next year.

We have reached out to the Sector Leaders Forum to see if similar reporting has been completed for hazardous substances and new organisms.

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

We plan to provide an implementation update on the Ministry's website later this year to give visibility of implementation progress. We also plan to undertake a post-implementation review in mid-2028 to assess if the intent of the recommendations has been met.

Contact: Paul Delahunty, Deputy Chief Executive Reviews and System Capability, s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

The Cabinet paper to consider the Review's Final Report went to the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee meeting (ECO) this week and will go to Cabinet on 7 September 2026. Preparation is underway for you and Minister Upston to make public announcements on the Review and the Government response following this.

In terms of briefings to portfolio Ministers on the recommendations relevant to their portfolios, we have now received decisions from the following Ministers and are setting up meetings with agencies to work on implementation: Minister for Food Safety, former Minister for Building and Construction, Minister of Transport, Minister Responsible for RMA Reform, and the Associate Minister of Justice (Alcohol). Decisions from all portfolio Ministers are due on Monday.

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

We are continuing to work with relevant agencies to progress implementation of the Review recommendations.

We are working with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are also working with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and other agencies to progress the trial of streamlined inspections.

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

Future Reviews Pipeline

For information

Work to develop the future regulatory review pipeline is progressing well, with 24 stakeholder engagements either completed or scheduled. Stakeholders have been highly willing to engage, and discussions have been productive and insightful, providing a strong evidence base for future review prioritisation.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We plan to provide advice to you on possible future review topics by 23 September 2026.

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

In confidence

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Product Labelling Cabinet paper was considered at Cabinet on 24 August 2026 and all recommendations were agreed to. We have been working with your office to prepare for your announcement of the Review's outcomes on 7 September 2026.

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

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 2 September 2026, the Ministry has received 1,759 submissions on potential red tape issues and fuel-related tips (17 in the last two weeks).

Most submissions received over the past two weeks raised issues with how much it costs, in time and or money, to comply with requirements. Over this period, the s 9(2)(f)(iv)

You will receive the last bundle of deregulatory options for this parliamentary term in October.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Economics presentations at University of Auckland (UoA) and Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

For information

On 26 August 2026, the Ministry's Chief Economist, Kevin Counsell, and Lead Advisor, Economics, Isabelle Sin, presented to economics students at UoA and separately at AUT. The presentations covered the role of the Ministry and the work of the Ministry's Economics Team. Both sessions were well attended and showed good engagement from students and faculty on the how the Ministry operates, what we do, the role of a professional economist, and career opportunities.

Contact: Kevin Counsell, Chief Economist, 021 569 588

Early in Careers Programme

For information

The Ministry advertised five graduate positions in August 2026 and received 557 applications. Shortlisting is currently underway, with interviews scheduled to commence from 14 September. Successful candidates will join the Ministry in February 2027 and be placed across the Economics, Policy, Reviews and System Capability, Legal, and Digital and Insights teams.

In confidence

Weekly Report

MFR2026-168

The new graduates will join the Ministry's existing cohort of four graduates and participate in a structured two-year development programme designed to build capability and support career progression in the public service.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations, s 9(2)(a)

Strengthening Democracy Project Internships

For information

The Ministry, in partnership with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, is offering paid two-week internships to secondary school students during the September/October school holidays.

The internship opportunities have been awarded to the top participants from the 2026 Strengthening Democracy Project, which involved workshops, project work, and a mock Select Committee presentation. Each agency will host five students, providing participants with practical experience and insight into the work of government agencies.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations, s 9(2)(a)

Ombudsman Final Opinion on Ministry's OIA practices now published

For information

The Chief Ombudsman has now published his Final Opinion of the Ministry's Official Information Act leadership, culture, performance monitoring and learning:

<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/news/mixed-findings-ombudsmans-latest-investigation-oia-practices-govt-agencies>. The report is also available on our website.

The proactive investigation into the Ministry's OIA practices is part of a regular review programme of government agencies' OIA capabilities and practices and not the result of a complaint.

The Final Opinion highlighted, among other things:

- that the Ministry had the highest staff ratings in the area of senior leadership support for disclosure and openness
- that 100% of surveyed staff rated the Ministry as pro-openness, demonstrating the strongest culture of openness across the five agencies
- a highly streamlined and efficient OIA process
- strong internal communications about OIA obligations.

The Chief Ombudsman acknowledged that several action points were already completed before publication of the final report, including website improvements, publication of policies, and enhanced OIA statistics.

The seven action points suggested for the Ministry are largely about continuous improvement and maturity rather than addressing cultural or systemic weaknesses.

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