



**Ministry for Regulation  
Te Manatū Waeture**

# **Regulatory Analysis Documents**

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## **Publication Requirements**

May 2026

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# Introduction

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These technical requirements operationalise the publication of regulatory analysis documents. The requirements standardise publication processes to enhance consistency and accessibility.

The purpose of the requirements is to support agencies' digital publication teams to:

- meet the statutory requirements of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 (the Act)
- meet the administrative requirements of the [\*\*Expectations for Good Law-making \[CO \(26\) 2\]\*\*](#)
- align with New Zealand government [\*\*Web Accessibility Standards\*\*](#)
- prepare to align with Parliamentary Counsel Office's (PCO) standards for the publication of secondary legislation (applicable from November 2027).

These requirements are also best practice for agencies not subject to Cabinet direction (e.g. Crown entities and local government).

These requirements apply from **1 July 2026**.

## Which documents do the requirements apply to?

[\*\*Expectations for Good Law-making \[CO \(26\) 2\]\*\*](#) requires an agency completing any of the regulatory analysis documents below to publish in line with Ministry for Regulation's requirements.

This document sets publication requirements for the following documents:

- Regulatory Analysis Summary (RAS)
- Consistency Accountability Statement (CAS)<sup>1</sup>
- Summary of Underpinning Analysis
- Minister/maker Statement of Reasons<sup>2</sup>

Requirements for agency review plans and advance regulatory notice can be found in the guidance for those:

- Review plans guidance
- Advance regulatory notice guidance

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<sup>1</sup> Regulatory Standards Act 2025, s 5 definition of "consistency accountability statement".

<sup>2</sup> Regulatory Standards Act 2025, s 11, s 12, s 14

# Regulatory Analysis Summary publication requirements

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## Where to publish

- RASs must be published on agencies' websites.
- Agencies must establish a RAS website page that hosts or links to all RASs (and supporting information). In practice, this means agencies could either
  1. publish all RASs on a dedicated webpage, or
  2. ensure that all published RASs are linked to in a document library/database and that there is a pre-set search filter for RASs in that document library/database.
- Agencies can also continue to link to published RASs on pages for specific policy projects.
- Agencies must also submit their RASs for publication on the Ministry for Regulation's website. This can be done through [RIA Online](#).
  - If you haven't used RIA Online before, information on accessing it is here: [Using RIA Online](#)

## Timing of publication

- In accordance with para 31 of [Expectations for Good Law-making \[CO \(26\) 2\]](#), the RAS must be published on an agency's website at the earliest of these events:<sup>3</sup>
  - Cabinet material is released under the proactive release requirements
  - any resulting Bill is introduced into the House or Amendment Paper is released
  - any resulting secondary legislation is published or otherwise made available, or
  - the Government announces its decision not to regulate.
- RASs should be submitted to the Ministry for Regulation for publication on its website as soon as possible after it is published on the agency's website.
- For PCO-published legislation (primary and some secondary legislation), links to RASs must be provided when the explanatory note content is provided to PCO's publications unit.
- For legislation not published by PCO (most secondary legislation), the links to RASs (if any) must be included in the explanatory note when the secondary legislation is published.

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<sup>3</sup> Subject to redactions consistent with the Official Information Act and any other due diligence matters for withholding information identified in *Proactive Release of Cabinet Material: Updated Requirements* [CO (23) 4]

## Format for publication

- In the RAS section of the website, each RAS should be published as a standalone document, rather than being bundled within a wider proactive release series of papers. Agencies may wish to publish a bundle including the RAS and any other Cabinet papers etc elsewhere on the website.
- At the time of RAS publication, agencies should consider proactively releasing any supporting information or advice referred to, or used in, the RAS.
- Agencies must ensure that RASs remain publicly available on their websites. Links must continue to work through persistent URLs or redirects, even if the website changes or the legislation they relate to is expired, revoked or removed.
- Agencies should ensure the format is accessible, in line with the [Web Accessibility Standard 1.2](#), e.g.:
  - publish content as HTML web pages by default
  - use text-based PDFs or other document files only when needed (e.g. for official records or when users genuinely require a downloadable format)
  - accompany PDFs or other document files with an accessible webpage version of the same content.
- Document text must not be hidden from indexing by JavaScript, unnecessary firewalls or crawling instructions, or non-persistent search URLs.

# Consistency Accountability Statement, Summary of Underpinning Analysis, and Minister/maker Statement of Reasons

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## Where to publish:

- Agencies must publish CASs, Summaries of Underpinning Analysis and Minister/maker Statements of Reasons on a dedicated CAS page on their website. Publication is not required on any other centralised website.<sup>4</sup>
- CASs, Summaries of Underpinning Analysis and Minister/maker Statements of Reasons developed following a review of existing legislation should **also** be linked from the webpage related to the wider review, such as a regulatory system homepage.

## Timing of publication

CASs for proposed legislation:

- When the legislation is published, these separate links must be included in the explanatory note:<sup>5</sup>
  - CAS
  - Summary of Underpinning Analysis
  - Statement of Reasons (if applicable)
- For PCO-published legislation (primary and some secondary legislation), links must be provided to PCO's publications unit when submitting explanatory note content.

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<sup>4</sup> This differs to arrangements for the publication of disclosure statements, which were submitted to PCO's Publication Unit and published centrally. It also differs for current arrangements for RASs, which are published on the agency's website and centrally – on the Ministry for Regulation's website.

<sup>5</sup> See Regulatory Standards Act s 11, s 12, s 14, and Expectations for Good Law-making for this requirement [CO (2)6 2].

- For legislation not published by PCO (most secondary legislation), links must be included in the explanatory note when the secondary legislation is published.<sup>6</sup>

CASs for existing legislation:

- For CASs completed following a review of existing primary legislation, as soon as practicable after the Minister has presented the CAS, Summary of Underpinning Analysis and any Statement of Reasons to the House of Representatives<sup>7</sup>, the agency must publish the documents.
- For CASs completed following a review of existing secondary legislation, in line with the Act and *Expectations for Good Law-making* [CO (26) 2], agencies must publish the CAS, Statement of Reasons (if applicable) and the Summary of Underpinning Analysis as soon as practicable after the review is completed.

## Format for publication

- Publish the following documents separately:
  - CAS
  - Summary of Underpinning Analysis
  - Statement of Reasons (if applicable)
- Agencies must ensure that RASs remain publicly available on their websites. Links must continue to work through persistent URLs or redirects, even if the website changes or the legislation they relate to is expired, revoked or removed.
- Ensure the format is accessible, in line with the **Web Accessibility Standard 1.2**, i.e.
  - publish content as HTML web pages by default
  - use text-based PDFs or other document files only when needed (e.g. for official records or when users genuinely require a downloadable format)
  - accompany PDFs or other document files with an accessible webpage version of the same content.
- Document text must not be hidden from indexing by JavaScript, unnecessary firewalls or crawling instructions, or non-persistent search URLs.

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<sup>6</sup> The Act provides that CASs can be included in the explanatory note itself (rather than linked from it). To standardise publication and ensure accessibility of published material, if embedding a CAS into the explanatory note of legislation directly agencies must also publish this separately on their website, in line with these requirements.

<sup>7</sup> See Regulatory Standards Act, s 20.

## Notify the Ministry for Regulation

- Notify the Ministry for Regulation once the material is published by emailing [RMS@regulation.govt.nz](mailto:RMS@regulation.govt.nz). Include the title of the legislation and Identification Number obtained through RIA Online (for primary and secondary legislation going through Cabinet) in the subject line.
- Include the information table from the top of the completed CAS.
- Include the published links to the:
  - CAS
  - Summary of Underpinning Analysis
  - Statement of Reasons (if applicable)

## Get in touch

If your situation does not fit easily with the above requirements or you are unsure how to meet your obligations, please contact the Ministry for Regulation by emailing [RMS@regulation.govt.nz](mailto:RMS@regulation.govt.nz).



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