



## Weekly Report

<b>Week ending:</b>	29 November 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	MFR2024-170

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Action sought</b>
<b>Hon David Seymour</b> <b>MINISTER FOR REGULATION</b>	<b>Note</b> the contents of this report

Aisling Risdon  
Contact: S 9(2)(a)  
Ministry for Regulation

**Minister's comments:**

# Actions

Action	Due date	Status update	
A2024-046	S 9(2)(f)(iv)	TBC	In progress.
A2024-050	Provide more detailed reporting on the red tape portal	10 December	In progress. Some more detailed reporting has been provided in this weekly report.
A2024-051	Provide an overview/timeline of the next steps for the ECE review	6 December	In progress.

# Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2024-108	November update on Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review for 26 November Joint Ministers Meeting	26 November
MFR2024-166	Talking Points on Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review for Joint Ministers meeting on 29 November	26 November
MFR2024-171	Draft terms of reference for hairdressing regulatory review	29 November

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2024-140	Meeting with Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ) – 4 December 2024	2 December
MFR2024-174	Further revised Cabinet impact analysis circular (title TBC)	2 December
MFR2024-173	S 9(2)(f)(iv)	6 December
MFR2024-109	Draft report for the Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review	12 December
MFR2024-167	Early Childhood Sector Regulatory Review Draft Report	12 December

# Upcoming events/announcements

Date	Location	Event	Opportunity
November	Wellington	<i>The Month of Regulation</i> – the Ministry’s engagement team are working with your office to propose and support a range of opportunities during the month of November (being the month you received your warrant as Minister for Regulation)	Various including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the red tape public portal for regulatory issues</li> <li>• Foreword in the Ministry’s stakeholder newsletter</li> </ul>
December	Auckland (TBC)	Announcement of the hairdressing and barbering regulatory review (third review)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Event (Minister’s hairdresser TBC)</li> <li>• PR and supporting communications products</li> </ul>
December	Wellington	Release of Cabinet circular relating to the paper Improving Regulatory Policy Making	We will work with your office to provide a communications approach and materials for a potential announcement
12 December	Wellington	TBC – ECE and Ag Hort regulatory review draft reports completed and received by Minister	TBC – PR and supporting communications products
13 December	Wellington	Ministry launches refreshed website	For information only
January	Wellington	TBC – hairdressing and barbering regulatory review online portal open for submissions	TBC – potential PR and supporting communications products
13 January 2025	Wellington	TBC - public consultation on RSB closes	TBC – potential PR and supporting communications products

Contact: Denise Mackay, Head of Engagement, S 9(2)(a)

# Updates

## Regulatory Response

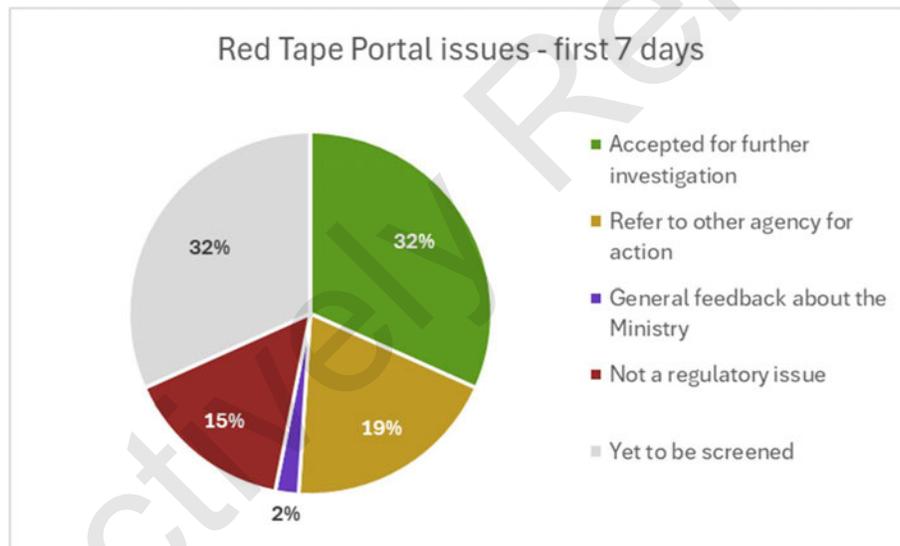
*For information*

### Red Tape Portal statistics – First 7 Days

As at 8am Tuesday 26 November, the Ministry for Regulation has received 290 submissions through the online Red Tape Portal.

Of the submissions received:

- 32% (92) passed the initial screening and have been accepted for further investigation
- 19% (56) are to be referred to other agencies for action
- 2% (6) were general feedback about the Ministry
- 15% (44) are not related to a regulatory matter
- 32% (92) of submissions are yet to be screened – this is due to the high volume of submissions received.



Of the 92 submissions that were accepted for further investigation:

- 27% were submitted on behalf of an organisation, and the rest were from individuals.
- 77% of submitters have told us they have not previously contacted another organisation about their issue - showing that over three quarters of those who have engaged with the online portal were prompted to raise their regulatory concern for the first time.

We have received submissions relating to a range of sectors and services. The most common sector continues to be "Construction" – making up 15% of the red tape issues we have progressed past screening.

"Education and Training" is the second most common sector raised by submitters – making up 10% of the red tape issues we have progressed past screening.

### Notes regarding the Red Tape Portal statistics:

- Sector data is as provided by the submitter.
- These are preliminary numbers based on the initial processing of Red Tape portal data and may change after further analysis.
- We will continue to provide more accurate and detailed information on portal submissions as we embed our processes.

### Matters in progress

RRT #	Issue	Next steps/Action taken
RRT2024-02	Traffic Management	S 9(2)(f)(iv)
RRT2024-044	Regulation of Hemp Industry	S 9(2)(f)(iv)
RRT2024 issues: 030, 048, 051, 052	AML	S 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Tony Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews. S 9(2)(a)

### Engagement

#### *For information*

This week the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive, Policy presented to the Law Association in Auckland. The audience was highly engaged and asked a wide range of questions across all areas of the Ministry's work including the proposed Regulatory Standards Bill, involvement in policy making, and building capability across systems and the online portal. We received compliments on our Regulatory Practice Essential Quick Guides.

Contact: Andrew Royle, DCE, Policy. S 9(2)(a)

### Early Childhood Education Regulatory Review

#### *For information*

This week we met with five representatives from peak bodies including ECE centre owners and a member from the academic community sector. The purpose of these meetings to gather their feedback on report themes we have identified and gauge their reaction.

We continue to work through the feedback received from the Ministry of Education and Education Review Office as we refine the first draft of the report.

Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Project Manager, Early Childhood Education Review. S 9(2)(a)

## Workforce and Recruitment

*For information*

On 25 November 2024, the Ministry welcomed Paula Knaap, Deputy Chief Executive for Organisational Enablement.

The Ministry has now permanently appointed 54% of its permanent positions. A further 23% of permanent positions are in an active recruitment process, including the following leadership roles:

- Head of Regulatory System Capability
- Head of Engagement
- Head of Digital and Insights

Formal interviews for the role of Chief Economist concluded on 22 November 2024 and the panel is progressing the next stages of recruitment.

A current workforce and recruitment update is attached as **Appendix 1**.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations. **S 9(2)(a)**

## Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review

*For information*

On 26 November 2024, Professor Alan Reilly provided feedback on sections of our draft report detailing the regulatory system and our analysis of the challenges and opportunities for improvement across the approval path. Professor Reilly is an adjunct professor at the University College Dublin Institute of Food and Health and the former chief executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

The first of two international peer-reviews, Professor Reilly's feedback was positive with only one suggested correction. Feedback included:

*"I can confirm that the Ministry for Regulation approach has been thorough and meticulous. It has left no stone unturned in the review and critical analysis of the regulatory structure managing the approval of agriculture and horticultural products.... In my view, the findings from the review will lead to a better regulatory structure where risks will be adequately managed while allowing access for the New Zealand agri-food sector to up-to-date and safe agricultural and horticultural products."*

The second reviewer is from the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry in Australia and we expect to receive their feedback early next week.

Contact: Peter Clark, Manger Regulatory Reviews. **S 9(2)(a)**

## Government Quarterly Plan

*For information*

The following updates were provided on 26 November for the report on the Government's Action Plan for Quarter 4. The Ministry has two actions this quarter – Actions 14 and 15. Action 14 is now completed. Action 15 is likely to be completed before the next reporting update is required.

Update Required		
Action #	Delivery Update <i>Please provide your progress update for this action</i>	Delivery Status
14	The discussion document on a proposed Regulatory Standards Bill was released for public consultation on 19 November. <a href="https://www.regulation.govt.nz/mfr-what-we-do/regulatory-standards-bill">https://www.regulation.govt.nz/mfr-what-we-do/regulatory-standards-bill</a>	<b>Completed</b>
15	Cabinet has approved a third Regulatory Review of the Hairdressing and Barbering Industry. Terms of Reference are being drafted in consultation with the Minister of Health.	<b>Probable</b>
[If Applicable] Critical Contextual Information		
14	<i>Cabinet approved the release – CAB-24-MIN-0435.01</i>	
15	<i>The review is on track to be announced and launched this quarter.</i>	

Upcoming papers <i>Please list any Cabinet Papers that support the closure of your action item</i>				
Paper name	Action #	Lead Portfolio	Committee	Committee Date
CAB-24-SUB-0437	14	Regulation	CAB	11 November 2024
CAB-24-SUB-0462	15	Regulation	EXP/CAB	EXP oral item: 19 Nov CAB: 25 Nov

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial Services, **S 9(2)(a)**

## B-Ready

*For information*

The World Bank currently has 21 B-Ready surveys for governments out in the field for its report next year, with responses due on 6 December 2024. New Zealand was included in the first World Bank B-READY report, replacing the World Bank Doing Business report, as part of an initial group of 50 economies. You were briefed on this previously (MFR2024-131).

New Zealand was ranked amongst the top economies for our public services and operational efficiency, with the Bank recognising our financial services, ease of business entry, and favourable business location conditions.

The report also provides some potential future focus areas to help us to improve our business environment.

The Ministry thinks B-READY has the potential to be a useful tool in guiding future areas of focus to improve our business environment. We note that with over 2000 data points it will be no small task for government to understand the survey results, what the various World Bank policy positions are, and how well they apply to New Zealand's context.

Proactively Released

# Recruitment Update

26 November 2024

## Current staffing breakdown

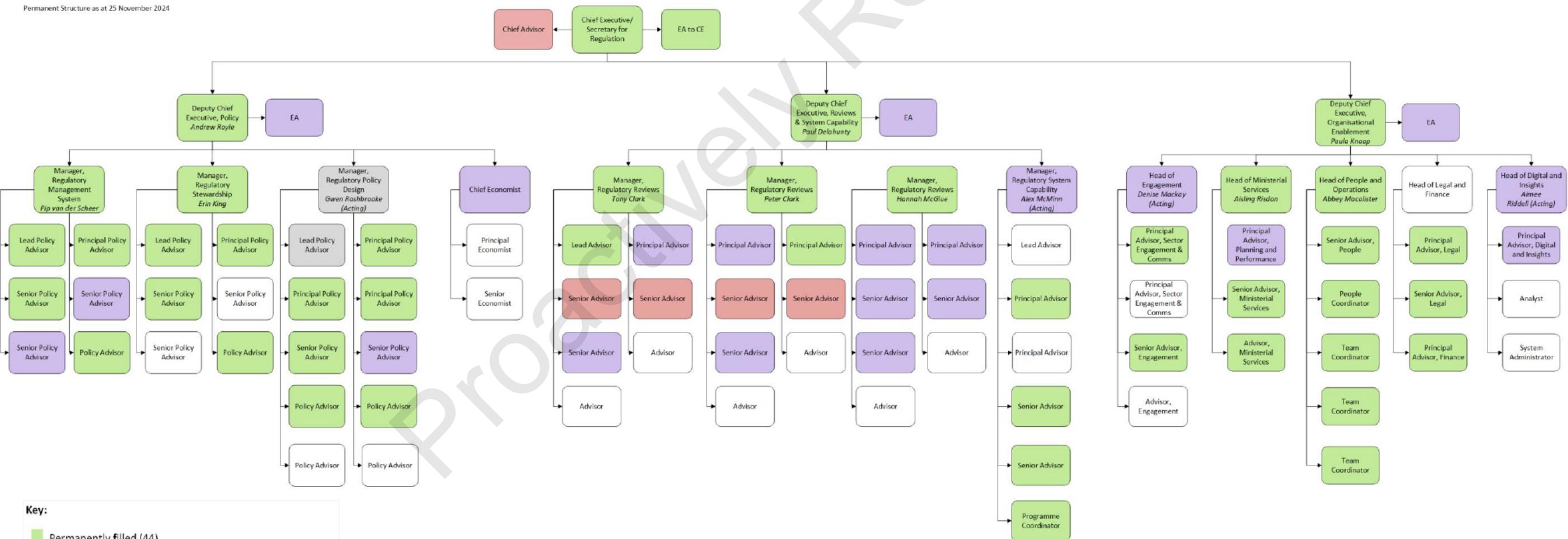
Total staff	<b>90</b>
Permanent	42
Fixed-term	34
Secondments	5
Contractors	9

## Permanent recruitment progress

Total permanent roles in Ministry structure	<b>91</b>
Filled	44 (48.5%)
Appointed but not started	5 (5.5%)
Recruitment in progress	21 (23%)
Vacant, recruitment yet to start	21 (23%)

- 1646 people have registered their interest with the Ministry's Careers Hub
- The MfR Careers Hub job conversion rate – the percentage of people who view the ad and go on to apply for the job - is 9%; this is a strong rate
- We have had 31.8k visitors to the Careers Hub since its launch on 2 July

Permanent Structure as at 25 November 2024



**Key:**

- Permanently filled (44)
- In recruitment process (21)
- Appointed and yet to start (5)
- In planning – to be advertised within next 3 weeks (2)