

**Appendix one – child support pass-on policy decisions and phase to be implemented in**

This Appendix provides a list of:

- all the policies agreed to by Cabinet in March 2022,
- all the policies subsequently agreed to by joint Ministers under their delegated authority, and
- the phase in which each policy will be implemented if the phased approach is agreed to.

This Appendix also provides information on further policy decisions required for phase one.

***Policy decisions agreed to by Cabinet in March 2022 [CAB-22-MIN-0091 refers]***

Policy	Phase
Child support payments made via Inland Revenue to sole parent beneficiaries to be passed on from 1 July 2023 (does not include recipients of an Unsupported Child’s Benefit or the Foster Care Allowance).	One
Remove the obligation that sole parent beneficiaries (except for Unsupported Child’s Benefit recipients) must apply for child support.	One
Formula assessment child support liabilities become an allowable cost for the purpose of Temporary Additional Support and Special Benefit.	One
Regular child support payments are charged forward (over four or five weeks).	One
Child support paid via Inland Revenue before 1 July 2023 are not included in the information share and will be charged as income in line with the income charging rules applying prior to 1 July 2023.	One
Child support arrears payments are charged forward (over four or five weeks) regardless of when the arrears are paid and the liable period(s) which it represents.	One
Child support payments that are charged forward are exempt from being considered a cash asset for the duration it is an income charge (four or five weeks).	One
A client’s decision not to apply for, or to revoke, a child support arrangement via Inland Revenue is not to be considered deprivation of income.	One
The abatement regime for Young Parent Payment and Youth Payment to be changed so child support income abates these payments dollar for dollar above the income cut-out threshold rather than losing entitlement.	One
Child support owed by the client offset by child support owed to the client (netted) is income of the client for benefit purposes.  s (9)(2)(g)(i) _____ _____ _____ _____	Two

**Policy decisions of a technical or minor nature agreed to by joint Ministers under their delegated authority**

Most of the following policy decisions have been made to:

- address equity concerns
- maintain consistency with other policies
- prevent clients from being penalised or disadvantaged unfairly
- enable another policy already agreed to
- improve administrative ease.

Policy	Phase
All child support payments as result of a reassessments will be adjusted forwards, rather than going back to the period the payment was originally charged as income.	One
Child support paid to re-partnered beneficiaries and single parent beneficiaries with shared care arrangements is treated as chargeable income for Temporary Additional Support in line with current practice.	One
Deprivation of income rules should not apply to the decision to not have a private child support arrangement or to revoke such an arrangement.	One
If the information share or income-charging systems are disrupted or failed, any resulting overpayment benefit debt should not be recovered from clients and be written off as a matter of course.	One
Clients transferring between weekly and fortnightly financial assistance may have their income charged over less than four or more than five weeks	One
An exception to charge child support payments differently when there is no equivalent date in sequential calendar months.	One
Align social housing with Cabinet’s decision that any person not applying for child support, or cancelling a child support agreement, will not be considered to be depriving themselves of income.	One
Repeal schedule 2 of the Public and Community Housing Management Act 1992 as it is now redundant and does not have any legal effect. This policy is proposed to remove redundant provisions from the Act.	One
Child support representing periods when a client was not receiving income-tested financial assistance should not be charged as income (known as on/off benefit rules).  § (9)(2)(g)(i) _____ _____ _____ _____	Two
Repayment of overpaid child support debt through personal resources will reduce the client’s income charge forward.  § (9)(2)(g)(i) _____	Two
Changes to offsetting amounts after a reassessment will adjust the client’s income charge forward.  § (9)(2)(g)(i) _____ _____	Two