



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Social Security (Cash Asset Exemption—Bonus Payments) Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 3 September 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in September 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU) agreed to establish a welfare programme to administer the Welfare that Works Community Job Coaching Bonus Payment (Bonus Payment), intended to reward young, long-term jobseekers who enter employment and remain off a main benefit [SOU-25-MIN-0130];
- 2 **noted** that SOU also agreed to amend the Social Security Regulations 2018 to exempt the Bonus Payment from being a cash asset when assessing eligibility for all assistance dependent on the Accommodation Supplement cash asset test;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment has agreed the cash asset exemption should be limited to the period of 12 months from receipt of payment;
- 4 **authorised** the submission of the Social Security (Cash Asset Exemption—Bonus Payments) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 29128/3.0], to give effect to the cash asset exemption decision referred to in paragraph 2 above;
- 5 **noted** that the Amendment Regulations will come into force on 20 October 2026.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon James Meager
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Stuart Smith MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG