MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Coversheet

Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Act 2026 – Cabinet material

Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment

These documents have been proactively released.

- *06 March 2025 - Expanding legislative authority for automated decision-making in the welfare system*
    - *SOU-25-MIN-0013*
- *30 May 2025 - Further automated decision-making legislative amendments*
    - *SOU-25-MIN-0052*
- *07 May 2026 - Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Bill 2026, including Appendices 1, 2 and 3*
    - *LEG-26-MIN-0082.*

These papers set out the Cabinet decisions to expand automated decision-making in the welfare system and remediate certain processes through the Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Bill (now the Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Act 2026 which came into force on 1 July 2026).

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it. This is the key to the redaction codes used for this release:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) - the confidentiality of advice under active consideration
- section 9(2)(h) - the information is legally privileged
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii) – the information is subject to an obligation of confidence.

The following Cabinet papers contain corrections:

- *Expanding legislative authority for automated decision-making in the welfare system* paragraph 26 and SOU-25-MIN-0013 paragraph 6.2. There is a correction to the net operational savings forecast.

- *Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Bill 2026* paragraph 20. There is a correction to how the advice from the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee is referenced.

The following documents that accompanied the Cabinet material are already public:

- The Regulatory Impact Statement: Automated Decision-Making in the welfare system and addendum https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/regulatory-impact-statement-automated-decision-making-in-the-welfare-system-and-addendum.pdf

Note that the 24 February 2025 Regulatory Impact Statement Appendix One includes the previous Automated Decision-Making Standard. This was reviewed and replaced with the new version of the Standard in May 2026.

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