CAB-26-MIN-0287

Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 31 August 2026, Cabinet:

1 **noted** that in January 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed that the review date to test ongoing rates and eligibility for some benefits will be every 52 weeks since the client's last review was completed, or 52 weeks from when their benefit commenced for clients who have not yet had a review [ECO-25-MIN-0002];

2 **noted** that:

2.1 in March 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee authorised the Minister for Social Development and Employment to take final policy decisions to develop and implement proposals relating to the Ministry of Social Development's use of Automated Decision-Making to administer the welfare system [SOU-25-MIN-0013];

2.2 pursuant to the above delegated authority, the Minister for Social Development and Employment agreed that if a client's specified benefit commenced before the relevant implementation date, their review date will be either 52 weeks after their commencement date or 52 weeks after their last review;

3 **noted** that the Minister for Social Development and Employment subsequently agreed that if a client's overseas benefit or Childcare Assistance commenced before the relevant mandatory review implementation date, their first mandatory review date will be one of the following that applies:

3.1 if the benefit commenced more than 52 weeks before the relevant implementation date, either:

3.1.1 52 weeks after the benefit was last reviewed, if that review occurred in the 52 weeks before the relevant implementation date; or

3.1.2 52 weeks after the implementation date, if the benefit was not reviewed in the 52 weeks before the relevant implementation date;

3.2 if the benefit commenced in the 52 weeks before the relevant implementation date, either:

3.2.1 52 weeks after the benefit was last reviewed, if that review occurred in the 52 weeks before the implementation date; or

3.2.2 a date to be determined by the Ministry of Social Development that is no later than 52 weeks after the commencement date, if the benefit was not reviewed in the 52 weeks before the relevant implementation date;

4 **noted** that the Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Regulations 2026 give effect to the decisions set out above;

5 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 29292/2.0];

6 **noted** that the Social Security (Modernisation) Amendment Regulations 2026 will come into force on 1 October 2026.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet