



01 DEC 2020

Dear

On 21 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. All correspondence/emails, briefings, and other documents provided to the Minister and between Ministry officials in the decision-making process for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP).*
- 2. All correspondence/emails, reports, briefings, and other documents provided to the Minister and between Ministry officials as to the suitability of current benefit levels for people becoming unemployed due to COVID-19 from 1 November 2019 to now.*

On 30 September 2020, you refined question one of your request to the following:

- 1. All briefings and other documents provided to Minister Sepuloni by Ministry officials, and all correspondence/emails between Ministry officials and the Office of the Minister for Social Development in the decision-making process for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP).*

I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

For reasons of clarity, I will respond to your questions in turn.

- 1. All briefings and other documents provided to Minister Sepuloni by Ministry officials, and all correspondence/emails between Ministry officials and the Office of the Minister for Social Development in the decision-making process for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP)*

All the papers provided to the Minister for Social Development and leading up to the implementation of CIRP have been proactively released. Your request for this information is, therefore, refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is publicly available. The documents in scope of question one are available at the following weblink: [www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/income-support-measures/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/income-support-measures/).

Regarding correspondence, please find correspondence in scope of your request attached to this letter.

The following four documents referenced in the correspondence are also attached to this response:

1. Memo – *Further information on implementation timeframes for temporary income relief options*, dated 15 April 2020
2. Fact Sheet – *Integrity scenarios and application processes*, dated 28 April 2020
3. Report – *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment – legislative process*, dated 12 May 2020
4. Fact Sheet – *Losing a job due to COVID-19 while on paid parental leave, compared to other types of leave*, dated 20 May 2020

To expedite the response, information contained within the correspondence that is not within scope of your request has not been included.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Some information within the Memo *Further information on implementation timeframes for temporary income relief options*, dated 15 April 2020, is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

You will note that the contact details of some individuals have been withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the Act may end up in the public domain.

You will note that some information within the Report *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment – legislative process*, dated 12 May 2020 is withheld under section 6(c) of the Act where making that information available would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation and detection of offences.

One email attachment within the correspondence noted, *Public and Community Housing Management (Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism) (COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income) Amendment Regulations 2020*, is publicly available and can be found at the following link: [www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0098/latest/LMS348408.html](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2020/0098/latest/LMS348408.html).

The *Social Security (COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income) Amendment Bill* (the Bill) mentioned within the correspondence can be found at the following link: [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL\\_97937/social-security-covid-19-income-relief-payment-to-be-income](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_97937/social-security-covid-19-income-relief-payment-to-be-income).



The following 14 documents were attached to the correspondence; however, they are publicly available and are, therefore, not provided as part of this response, under section 18(d) of the Act.

1. Report – *Further income support measures in response to COVID-19*, dated 27 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM8-Report-Further-income-support-measures-in-response-to-COVID-19-27-Ma....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM8-Report-Further-income-support-measures-in-response-to-COVID-19-27-Ma....pdf).
2. Aide-mémoire – *Joint Ministerial meeting on Income Support: 2 April*, dated 1 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM11-Aide-memoire-Joint-Ministerial-meeting-on-Income-Support-1-Apr-2020.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM11-Aide-memoire-Joint-Ministerial-meeting-on-Income-Support-1-Apr-2020.pdf).
3. Report – *Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income*, dated 7 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM7-Report-Further-advice-on-transitional-income-support-for-low-to-middle....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM7-Report-Further-advice-on-transitional-income-support-for-low-to-middle....pdf).
4. Report – *Further detailed advice on a temporary income relief payment*, dated 23 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Further-detailed-advice-on-a-temporary-income-relief-payment-23-Apr-2020.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Further-detailed-advice-on-a-temporary-income-relief-payment-23-Apr-2020.pdf).
5. Aide-mémoire – *Temporary Income Relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19*, dated 28 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM14-Aide-memoire-Temporary-Income-Relief-for-People-Who-Have-Lost-Their-Jo....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM14-Aide-memoire-Temporary-Income-Relief-for-People-Who-Have-Lost-Their-Jo....pdf).
6. Cabinet Paper – *Temporary income relief payment*, dated 28 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM4-Paper-and-minute-Temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-have-lost-thei....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM4-Paper-and-minute-Temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-have-lost-thei....pdf).
7. Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute of Decision – *Temporary income relief payment*, dated 29 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM4-Paper-and-minute-Temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-have-lost-thei....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM4-Paper-and-minute-Temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-have-lost-thei....pdf).
8. Cabinet Minute of Decision – *Additional Item: Temporary Income Relief Payment*, dated 4 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Minute-Additional-Item-Temporary-Income-Relief-Payment.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Minute-Additional-Item-Temporary-Income-Relief-Payment.pdf).
9. Report – *Key policy decisions on temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19 (updated)*, dated 5 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf).
10. Report – *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Operational Details*, dated 8 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf).

[release-2020-july/ISM-1-Report-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-Operational-Details-7-May-2020....pdf](#).

11. Aide-mémoire – *Social Security (COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction*, dated 21 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Aide-memoire-Social-Security-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-to-be-Income-Amendment-Bill-Approval-for-Introduction.pdf](#).
12. Cabinet Minute of Decision – *Social Security (COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income) Amendment Bill: Approval for introduction*, dated 25 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Minute-and-Paper-Social-Security-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-to-be-Income-Amendment-Bill -Approval-for-Introduction.pdf](#).
13. Report – *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme*, dated 25 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM3-Report-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-Programme-25-May-2020.pdf](#).
14. Report – *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme – final for approval*, dated 29 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-Programme-final-for-approval-29-may-2020.pdf](#).

I will now address your second question below.

2. *All correspondence/emails, reports, briefings, and other documents provided to the Minister and between Ministry officials as to the suitability of current benefit levels for people becoming unemployed due to COVID-19 from 1 November 2019 to now*

The Ministry has published the following documents relevant to your request. These documents are, therefore, refused under section 18(d) of the Act as they are publicly available. Please follow the weblinks provided below to access these documents. For the sake of clarity, the list below is divided into subjects.

**Documents on the main benefit increase and doubling of the Winter Energy Payment:**

- Aide-mémoire: *COVID-19 Recovery Package: Increases to main benefits and the Winter Energy Payment*, dated 20 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/COVID-19-Recovery-Package-Increases-to-Main-Benefits-and-the-Winter-Energy-Payment-Aide-Memoire.pdf](#).
- Aide-mémoire: *Social Security (Rates of Benefits and Allowances) (COVID-19 Recovery Package) Amendment Order 2020*, dated 20 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/Social-](#)



[Security-Rates-of-Benefit-and-Allowances-COVID-19-Recovery-Package-Amendment-Order-2020-Aide-Memoire-20-03-20.pdf](#).

- Report: *Regulatory changes for the COVID-19 Recovery Package and other remedial matters*, dated 20 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/Regulatory-changes-for-the-COVID-19-Recovery-Package-and-other-remedial-matters-Report.pdf](#)
- Legislative instrument: *Income Support Package (Transitional Assistance) Amendment 2020*, dated 23 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/Regulatory-changes-for-the-COVID-19-Recovery-Package-and-other-remedial-matters-Appendix.pdf](#).
- Cabinet Minute of Decision: *COVID-19 Recovery Package: Increases to Main Benefits and the Winter Energy Payment*, dated 23 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/COVID-19-Recovery-Package-Increases-to-Main-Benefits-and-the-Winter-Energy-Payment-Minute.pdf](#).
- Cabinet Paper: *COVID-19 Recovery Package: Increases to main benefits and the Winter Energy Payment*, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/COVID-19-Recovery-Package-Increases-to-Main-Benefits-and-the-Winter-Energy-Payment-Paper.pdf](#).

**Papers on options for income support preceding the advice on the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment:**

- Report: *Further income support measures in response to COVID-19*, dated 27 March 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM8-Report-Further-income-support-measures-in-response-to-COVID-19-27-Mar....pdf](#).
- Aide-mémoire: *Joint Ministerial meeting on Income Support: 2 April*, dated 1 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM11-Aide-memoire-Joint-Ministerial-meeting-on-Income-Support-1-Apr-2020.pdf](#).
- Report: *Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income*, dated 7 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM7-Report-Further-advice-on-transitional-income-support-for-low-to-middle....pdf](#).

**Papers on the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment:**

- Report: *Further detailed advice on a temporary income relief payment*, dated 22 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Further-detailed-advice-on-a-temporary-income-relief-payment-23-Apr-2020.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Further-detailed-advice-on-a-temporary-income-relief-payment-23-Apr-2020.pdf).
- Aide-mémoire: *Temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19*, dated 28 April 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM14-Aide-memoire-Temporary-Income-Relief-for-People-Who-Have-Lost-Their-Jo....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM14-Aide-memoire-Temporary-Income-Relief-for-People-Who-Have-Lost-Their-Jo....pdf).
- Cabinet Minute of Decision: *Additional Item: Temporary Income Relief Payment*, dated 4 May 2020, available at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Minute-Additional-Item-Temporary-Income-Relief-Payment.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Minute-Additional-Item-Temporary-Income-Relief-Payment.pdf).
- Report: *Key policy decisions on temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19 (updated)*, dated 5 May 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf).

**Papers related to increasing the Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit:**

- Cabinet Paper: *Social Security (COVID-19 increase to rates of Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit) Order 2020*, available at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM18-PAPER-AND-MINUTE-16-June-SOCIAL-SECURITY-COVID-19-Increase-to-Rates....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM18-PAPER-AND-MINUTE-16-June-SOCIAL-SECURITY-COVID-19-Increase-to-Rates....pdf).
- Aide-mémoire: *Social Security (COVID-19 Increase to Rates of Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit) Order 2020*, dated 12 June 2020, available at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM19-Aide-memoire-12-June-Social-Security-COVID-19-Increase-to-Rates-of-Orph....pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM19-Aide-memoire-12-June-Social-Security-COVID-19-Increase-to-Rates-of-Orph....pdf).
- Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute of Decision: *Financial Assistance for Caregivers Bill*, dated 17 June 2020, available at: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/IS02-Minute-and-paper-Financial-Assistance-for-Caregivers-Bill-17-June-2020.pdf](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-october/IS02-Minute-and-paper-Financial-Assistance-for-Caregivers-Bill-17-June-2020.pdf).

**Papers on food insecurity:**

- Aide-mémoire: *Food Secure Communities: Strategic Approach and Update*, dated 29 June 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/)



[resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM16-Aide-memoire-Food-Secure-Communities -Strategic-Approach-and-Update-....pdf.](#)

- Flow chart: *Food Secure Communities*, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM17-Appendix-1-Food-Secure-Communities-Diagram-April-2020-29-Jun-20.pdf.](#)
- Report: *Food Secure Communities: strategic approach and update*, dated 29 June 2020, available here: [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM15-Report-Food-Secure-Communities-strategic-approach-and-update-29-Jun-....pdf.](#)

The Ministry searched for further reports and briefings in scope of the second question of your request that have not been published to date. I can confirm that the Ministry did not locate any further documents within scope of your request.

The Ministry refuses the second question for 'other documents' that have not been provided in this response under section 18(f) of the Act. Your request for 'other documents' is very broad and substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare any further possibly existing documents within scope. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

Regarding correspondence and emails, the Ministry advised you on 29 September 2020 that this aspect of your request is very broad and manual collation of correspondence and emails relating to this subject is likely required. The Ministry advised you that this aspect of your question may, therefore, be refused under section 18(f) of the Act. The Ministry invited you to refine your request. On 30 September 2020, you advised the Ministry that you did not want to refine this part of your request.

I made inquiries with the relevant business units and can confirm that substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. In order to provide you with the information requested, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, I refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to the second question of your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies

- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding documents relating to the CIRP and to the suitability of benefit levels, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Polly Vowles  
**Policy Manager**  
**Welfare System and Income Support Policy**



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income  
**Date:** Tuesday, 9 June 2020 4:17:23 PM  
**Attachments:** [REP 20 4 364 Cover Sheet COVID-19 Transitional support .docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 April 2020 1:43 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income

And someone just pointed out that version required time-travel...

Sorry, further correction attached!

Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 April 2020 1:34 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income

Sorry <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> – I goofed on the cover sheet. Just replacing that.

Will call you now to make sure this has come through.

Thanks,

Section  
9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 7 April 2020 1:31 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Giddings Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Fiona Carter-

Viv Rickard Section 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(k)

Nic Blakeley Section 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(k)

; Justine Cornwall Section 9(2)(k)

Section  
9(2)(a);  
Section  
9(2)(k)

**Subject:** REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached REP/20/4/364 – Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income.

This advice responds to commissioning from Thursday's Joint Ministers meeting. This report has been signed off by DPMC (CPU), Treasury and IRD. They are providing the report to their Ministers.

Let us know if you have any questions. Section 9(2)(a) is available this afternoon to discuss.

Thanks,

Section  
9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand





**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: CIRP rec 20 confirmation  
**Date:** Friday, 15 May 2020 3:37:12 PM

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Hi,

Ministers were consulted. And no issues were raised with the rec below.

Regards, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

**Email disclaimer:**

*Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>*

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 10:39 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** CIRP rec 20 confirmation

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

As discussed, it would be good to get formal confirmation that Ministers have agreed that Rec 20 below should reflect that the payment cannot be restarted and paid for the remainder of the 12-week period for people who have voluntarily terminated their subsequent employment or who were dismissed.

20 **agree** that payment of the temporary income relief payment will cease if an individual returns to employment or restarts their business (or contracting) within

the 12-week period, but that it can be restarted and paid for the remainder of the 12-week period if they subsequently stop working

Cheers,

Section  
9(2)(a)

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RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k) [Fiona Carter-Giddings](#); [Simon MacPherson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: income support paper further advice  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 April 2020 12:56:42 PM

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Hi [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

See comments in red below.

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



What timeframe of redundancies would qualify? For example from lockdown onwards? Or will it start earlier? And if so, when is the cut off <sup>Section 9(2)(g)(i)</sup> [redacted]

[redacted] ?

The temporary weekly payment proposed for anyone who has have suffered an involuntary job loss could be set between any period specified. The current proposal and modelling assumes a redundancy period of between 1 March 2020 and 31 December 2020. This could be amended to align more closely with the official lockdown period if desired. Further advice can be provided to Ministers on this.

**From:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 April 2020 8:43 AM

**To:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> [redacted] <sup>Section 9(2)(k)</sup> [redacted]

**Subject:** income support paper further advice

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> [redacted],

Out of Scope

[redacted]

Out of Scope

[redacted]

Further info on Option 1 in the income support paper:

- What timeframe of redundancies would qualify? For example from lockdown onwards? Or will it start earlier? And if so, when is the cut off <sup>Section 9(2)(g)(i)</sup> [redacted]

[redacted]

Is it possible to get some rough answers by 1pm please?

Nga mihi

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> [redacted]

| Ministerial Advisor

<sup>Section 9(2)(k)</sup> [redacted]

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Authorised by Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income  
**Date:** Tuesday, 14 April 2020 5:01:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

We're not aware of it being circulated to Minister Woods or Martin – there wasn't a specific recommendation to do so. Might need to check with the offices of the other Ministers (MoF, PMO, Revenue) to know for sure?

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 April 2020 4:30 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

>

**Subject:** RE: REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Can I check - do you know if this paper has been circulated to Ministers Woods and Martin?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Tuesday, 07 Apr 2020, 1:31 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Simon MacPherson <Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)>

Carter-Giddings Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

, Fiona

Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Viv Rickard <

Section 9(2)(k)

, Nic Blakeley

Section 9(2)(k)

Justine Cornwall

Section 9(2)(k)

Secti  
on  
9(2)

Section 9(2)(a);  
Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** REP 20 4 364 - Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)</sup>  
(a)

Please find attached REP/20/4/364 – Further advice on transitional income support for low-to-middle income people experiencing sudden drops in income.

This advice responds to commissioning from Thursday's Joint Ministers meeting. This report has been signed off by DPMC (CPU), Treasury and IRD. They are providing the report to their Ministers.

Let us know if you have any questions. <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> is available this afternoon to discuss.

Thanks,

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** [Simon MacPherson](#); [Fiona Carter-Giddings](#); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** Some background info on implementation timeframes  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 April 2020 11:56:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [Memo on implementation timeframes.docx](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

I understand the office has requested further information on implementation timeframes for the temporary income relief options. Please find attached a short memo, with more formal joint agency advice on the key options and decisions coming on Friday.

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a)  
Senior Policy Analyst | Welfare System and Income Support  
**Ministry of Social Development**  
**56 The Terrace (the Aurora Centre), Wellington**  
Section 9(2)(k)

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
Section 9(2)(k) Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 12:51:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [20200521 Aide-memoire for Cabinet CIRP to be income.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the aide-memoire to support the Minister at Cabinet on Monday. While some of it is covered in the talking points, it may be worth noting if the Minister would like to have more of the eligibility criteria for the relief payment on hand then this is set out in the appendix of the Cab paper.

Also just checking you got the finals of the Bill and Regs from Section 9(2)(a) ?

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)  
Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)





**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Departmental Disclosure Statement for CIRP to be income Bill  
**Date:** Friday, 22 May 2020 11:13:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [Departmental Disclosure Statement - CIRP to be income Bill.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

Attached is the Departmental Disclosure Statement for the CIRP to be income Bill.  
We can email this through to PCO.

Let me know if there is anything else you need from us on this one.

Thanks

Section  
9(2)(a)



Section 9(2)(a)  
Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)



RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k) (a)  
**Subject:** For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation  
**Date:** Friday, 15 May 2020 4:22:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[Coversheet REP 20 5 511 COVID19 Income Relief Payment legislative process.docx](#)  
[REP 20 5 528 - Cabinet paper seeking to introduce Covid-19 income relief payment to be income Bill.pdf](#)  
[Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill - PCO22940 v1.4 \(15 May 2020\).pdf](#)  
[Public and Community Housing Management \(Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism\) \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Regulations 2020 PCO22960 v1.0 \(15 May 2020\).pdf](#)  
[For consultation - Draft Cabinet paper - Social Security COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income Amendment Bill Approval for Introduction.docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a),

Attached is the cover report, the draft Cabinet paper and the draft Bill and Amendment Regulations to ensure the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment can be treated as income for benefit and public and community housing purposes.

The cover report seeks agreement to circulate the draft Cabinet paper and legislation for Ministerial and cross-Party consultation, with feedback due by close of business Tuesday 19 May. We appreciate these are tight timeframes but it is what is required to have the paper considered at Cabinet on Monday 25 May and subsequently, the Bill introduced and passed by 8 June. The drafts are being circulated for agency consultation at the same time.

In regards to the timeframe for passing the Bill, an indicative timeframe is attached as an Appendix to the cover report. We have spoken with the Office of the Clerk – who have advised that the 2 day rule (for the Bill to sit on the order paper) doesn't apply if legislation proceeds under urgency. The did seem weary about the use of urgency and suggested that legislation can be introduced on any day, and then urgency can be used later ie it can sit for a day or two until the first reading etc proceeds under urgency, which provides somewhat more opportunity for scrutiny.

We think it would be best for the office to confirm the approach for passing the Bill with the Office of the Leader of the House to explore what would work best.

Happy to discuss any of the above further.

Nga mihi nui,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Back pocket material on unemployment insurance  
**Date:** Friday, 5 June 2020 9:11:18 AM

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 9:53 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Cc:** Simon MacPherson; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k); Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** Back pocket material on unemployment insurance

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

As discussed. Let me know if you have any issues with the content.

### **Why is the Government looking at this now?**

The Government is looking at how best to support displaced workers (particularly financially) and unemployment insurance is a key tool many countries use for that purpose. We want to understand the role it can play in New Zealand.

### **What is unemployment insurance?**

- Unemployment insurance provides replacement cover for lost income. Redundancy is the usual reason for getting unemployment insurance.
- The replacement income is usually a percentage rate of a person's lost income. Different countries offer different levels of replacement income.
- The replacement income usually lasts for a number of months, or until a person finds new work.
- People receiving income insurance payments usually also get help to find work, or retrain and upskill.

### **What other countries have unemployment insurance?**

Unemployment insurance is common in OECD countries. OECD governments usually play important roles in administering insurance schemes, often working closely with business and unions.

### **Who pays?**

Unemployment insurance schemes are funded through a mix of contributions from workers, firms and government.

### **Does insurance replace welfare?**

There is a clear interaction and we need to look at how any such scheme would work alongside our benefit system. Countries with insurance schemes usually also have welfare systems.

**How serious is the government about unemployment insurance?**

The government has an open mind and is looking forward to receiving advice from officials.

Unemployment insurance plays an important role in other countries in reducing the financial shock of job loss, and helping people back to work.

Any moves towards an insurance scheme would be gradual (over several years) and would be taken in close consultation with unions and business.

Section 9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst | Welfare System and Income Support  
**Ministry of Social Development**

**56 The Terrace (the Aurora Centre), Wellington**

Section 9(2)(k)

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: CIRP request  
**Date:** Friday, 5 June 2020 9:11:49 AM  
**Importance:** High

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 2:33 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
Fiona Carter-Giddings Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k); Simon MacPherson  
Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k) Viv Rickard Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** CIRP request  
**Importance:** High

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Further info below...

The eligibility criteria could be amended so that the payment is resumed only for people who have lost their subsequent work for reasons outside of their control. Therefore it would not be available to those who voluntarily terminate their subsequent employment (e.g. resign) or who were dismissed (e.g. for misconduct). People who took up a short fixed-term contract would remain eligible to receive the remaining period of entitlement following the end of the contract.

This would ensure that the payment could be implemented by 8 June 2020. If Ministers wanted COVID-19 related job loss, this could only be implemented by 22 June 2020 (if decision is made today).

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k) >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 8:41 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k) >; Section 9(2)(a)  
Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** FW: Final report Temporary income relief

Hi,

Please find attached signed report with an amendment/addition in bold on page 6., para 20:  
...period if they subsequently stop working **through or due to COVID 19 related reasons**.



Please note that this amendment has been discussed and agreed with Hon Sepuloni.

Can you please confirm how we can make this change?

Cheers, <sup>Section</sup>  
9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions on the temporary income relief paper  
**Date:** Friday, 5 June 2020 9:12:33 AM  
**Attachments:** [1226640 Education Report Further advice on financial support for tertiary....pdf](#)

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 27 April 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Questions on the temporary income relief paper

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

Please see our comments in red below. We have updated the paper to reflect some of the comments made, however please see below comments on whether further changes to the paper may be required.

- Working for Families entitlement – the paper says this payment will have “no impact” on WFF assistance. Will people receiving this payment be eligible for the FTC at a rate that reflects their lower income through this payment compared to their income while in employment? And will the IWTC be available for this period of time also? (rec 6).  
People receiving this payment will receive the FTC at a rate which reflects a reduced income due to the loss of work. Note that this income calculation for FTC (and wider WFF) does not include this payment as this payment won't be considered income for WFF. E.g. someone without any other income will receive the full rate of FTC, i.e. as if they had zero income. The IWTC won't be available if the person and their partner do not meet the in-employment test – that is, families must be deriving income from employment in that week. **We have made this more clear in the paper.**
- There is a concern about lack of eligibility for people whose fixed term contracts end during the period from 1 March – 31 December, where these people work in significantly impacted industries. Would this be possible to consider?  
We could consider more detailed rules around fixed-term contracts ending during eligibility period as part of further advice on decisions on self-employed people and people on unpaid leave who meet the hours test. **Please confirm if you would like us to include this reference to further work on this group in the Cabinet paper.**
- There has been a request that this be extended to all workers laid off, including migrants on temporary visas- I assume this would not be possible due to the parameters of social security act but can I get some further advice on this please?  
People on temporary visas could be made eligible for this payment similar to what was done for the Christchurch Mosque attack payment (using the Welfare Programme). However we do not think that this is appropriate given that Ministers are still considering how to best to assist temporary migrants. A draft Cabinet paper is currently with Ministers (Immigration and Social Development) for Ministerial and cross-party consultation. The paper proposes to establish a time-limited hardship grant to provide



financial assistance to temporary migrant workers who lose their employment due to COVID-19. The proposed hardship grant for migrants is less generous than the temporary income relief payment. Extending the temporary income relief payment to temporary migrants would also mean that they would receive more support than existing beneficiaries. Including this group will also increase operational workload and may impact on processing times. **Please confirm if you would like us to address this in the Cabinet paper, and if so, what the Minister for SD and MoF would like to recommend.**

- Is there any update from MSD on where the student support work is at? There is concern about lack of support for those working under 15 hours, for example students.

MOE sent a report to their Minister on Friday - attached. Relevant proposals include a Hardship fund s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Can update the paper to reflect the below comments:

- Entitlement to receive this payment if redundancy occurs during parental leave – noting rec 14.8, it should be clarified that this exclusion is only for people remaining on unpaid leave and able to return to work at the end of the leave. If someone is made redundant while on parental leave they should absolutely be eligible for this payment.
- Eligibility for hardship grants if needed while receiving this payment – should be clarified that this payment is not intended to preclude availability of other assistance, though will be taken into account in assessing eligibility (rec 5).
- Relationship with main benefit eligibility – rec 14.5 should clarify that if someone opts to receive this benefit instead there will be continuity of payment, i.e. no gap between transitioning from Student Allowance to this payment, and no stand down periods after the end of this payment if moving on to a main benefit or back onto Student Allowance.

From: Section 9(2)(a) <Section 9(2)(k)>

Sent: Monday, 27 April 2020 11:48 AM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: Fwd: Questions on the temporary income relief paper

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Here are some questions to answer and some feedback to incorporate. Let me know if you'd like to discuss.

Cheers

Section 9(2)(a)



Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** 27 April 2020 at 11:23:29 AM NZST  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** FW: Questions on the temporary income relief paper

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see questions and feedback on the Cabinet paper below.

Cheers Section 9(2)(a)

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(<http://www.blackberry.com>)

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k) >  
**Date:** Monday, 27 Apr 2020, 11:20 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k) >  
**Subject:** Questions on the temporary income relief paper

Hey Section 9(2)(a)

Very sorry to you and the team at MSD to be interrupting your long weekend (again!).

We've had a few questions come through the consultation process. Are you able to provide me with responses as soon as possible please? I'm not sure if these are all in MSDs area so let me know if I should seek some of the advice through another office.

- Working for Families entitlement – the paper says this payment will have “no impact” on WFF assistance. Will people receiving this payment be eligible for the FTC at a rate that reflects their lower income through this payment compared to their income while in employment? And will the IWTC be available for this period of time also? (rec 6).
- There is a concern about lack of eligibility for people whose fixed term contracts end during the period from 1 March – 31 December, where these people work in significantly impacted industries. Would this be possible to consider?
- There has been a request that this be extended to all workers laid off, including migrants on temporary visas- I assume this would not be possible due to the parameters of social security act but can I get some further advice on this please?
- Is there any update from MSD on where the student support work is at?

There is concern about lack of support for those working under 15 hours, for example students

Is it possible for MSD to draft up the following changes to the paper please? (and if they could keep them visibly separate from the other changes being made so we can distinguish them when Ministers next review the paper please)

- Entitlement to receive this payment if redundancy occurs during parental leave – noting rec 14.8, it should be clarified that this exclusion is only for people remaining on unpaid leave and able to return to work at the end of the leave. If someone is made redundant while on parental leave they should absolutely be eligible for this payment.
- Eligibility for hardship grants if needed while receiving this payment – should be clarified that this payment is not intended to preclude availability of other assistance, though will be taken into account in assessing eligibility (rec 5).
- Relationship with main benefit eligibility – rec 14.5 should clarify that if someone opts to receive this benefit instead there will be continuity of payment, i.e. no gap between transitioning from Student Allowance to this payment, and no stand down periods after the end of this payment if moving on to a main benefit or back onto Student Allowance.

Thank you!

Nga mihi

Section 9(2)(a)

| Ministerial Advisor

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Authorised by Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

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---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Income relief payment - welfare programme  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 10:59:49 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[CIRP - approach to losing a job while on leave.docx](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

A few things about the income relief payment welfare programme –

1. We are planning to send you the draft welfare programme and a cover report this Friday, and then provide the final welfare programme for the Minister's approval on Friday 29 May. This approach will give some opportunity for the Minister to give her feedback on the draft welfare programme before it is finalised, though we note that many of the relief payment settings represent the only feasible option given implementation timeframes, so we're quite limited in what we can change.
2. Ahead of this, we wanted to test where we have landed with how we treat those who lose their job due to COVID-19 while they are on leave. Our approach is in the attached document – please let us know if there are any issues with this.
3. Does the office have a preference as to whether the cover report for the draft welfare programme is forwarded or cc'ed to MoF? Either way Treasury will be consulted on it.

Happy to chat

Many thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)

 The Aurora Centre | Level 11 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand





**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:06:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Public and Community Housing Management \(Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism\) \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Regulations 2020.3 \(20 May\).pdf](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Attached are the latest version of the Regs. Please note we are providing minor feedback to PCO on these, I will send you the finals when we have them, which will be before 10am tomorrow.

Also, I will send you the Cabinet paper, showing the minor changes made after feedback from agency consultation shortly (it is just being proofed now). Assuming you don't have any concerns with the track changes we are all good to lodge tomorrow morning

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:53 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Could you please send through the latest draft of the regs?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 3:32 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the Electronic Advice Sheet for Monday's Executive Council. We will get the

AM to you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

From: Section 9(2)(a) >

Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 2:11 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

just confirming that the Office would like the regulations to go to Executive Council next week please.

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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From: Section 9(2)(a) >

Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:59 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)



**Subject:** Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

The advice sheet for the regulations for the income relief payment is ready, but we need to know the date of the Executive Council the regulations will be going to. As previously discussed, we would prefer Tuesday 2 June, but can do Monday 25 May if needed – just let us know.

The agency consultation on the Cabinet paper on the legislative changes for the income relief payment has gone well and we have only received minor comments, so are on track to provide an updated version to you tonight. Are you aware of or expecting any significant Ministerial feedback?

Thanks so much

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Policy Manager | Welfare System and Income Support  
**Ministry of Social Development**  
Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) 9 Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 3:32:21 PM  
**Attachments:** 20200520 Advice sheet - CIRP to be income (002).doc

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the Electronic Advice Sheet for Monday's Executive Council. We will get the AM to you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 2:11 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

just confirming that the Office would like the regulations to go to Executive Council next week please.

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:59 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

The advice sheet for the regulations for the income relief payment is ready, but we need to know the date of the Executive Council the regulations will be going to. As previously discussed, we would prefer Tuesday 2 June, but can do Monday 25 May if needed – just let us know.

The agency consultation on the Cabinet paper on the legislative changes for the income relief payment has gone well and we have only received minor comments, so are on track to provide an updated version to you tonight. Are you aware of or expecting any significant Ministerial feedback?

Thanks so much

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Policy Manager | Welfare System and Income Support  
Ministry of Social Development

Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:29:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill - PCQ22940 v1.8 \(20 May 2020\).pdf](#)  
[Public and Community Housing Management \(Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism\) \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Regulations 2020 PCQ22960 v1.4 \(20 May 2020\).pdf](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

The Cabinet paper has now been lodged.

Attached are the latest drafts of the Regulations and Bill which were sent to us by PCO last night, MSD is providing no further comment so these are settled in substance but are not the 'making versions' as they are going through a final editorial check at PCO.

I have checked in with PCO they expect to send final finals through between 10 and 12.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 8:43 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi,

Just a further update on this – can you please send through the final regs when you get them at 10am?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:08 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Thank you!

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 5:07 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi (a)

Attached are the latest version of the Regs. Please note we are providing minor feedback to PCO on these, I will send you the finals when we have them, which will be before 10am tomorrow.

Also, I will send you the Cabinet paper, showing the minor changes made after feedback from agency consultation shortly (it is just being proofed now). Assuming you don't have any concerns with the track changes we are all good to lodge tomorrow morning

Thanks,

 n 9(2)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:53 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation

of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Could you please send through the latest draft of the regs?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

From: Section 9(2)(a) <Section 9(2)(k)>

Date: Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 3:32 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the Electronic Advice Sheet for Monday's Executive Council. We will get the AM to you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

From: Section 9(2)(a) <Section 9(2)(k)>

Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 2:11 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

just confirming that the Office would like the regulations to go to Executive Council next week please.

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a) | Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:59 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

**Hi** Section 9(2)(a)

The advice sheet for the regulations for the income relief payment is ready, but we need to know the date of the Executive Council the regulations will be going to. As previously discussed, we would prefer Tuesday 2 June, but can do Monday 25 May if needed – just let us know.

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Thanks so much

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Policy Manager | Welfare System and Income Support  
**Ministry of Social Development**  
Section 9(2)(k)

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RELEASABLE UNDER THE INFORMATION ACT  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:46:25 AM

---

Awesome – thanks Section 9(2)(a)

We will get the AM to you for the 1pm bag also.

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:45 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

And we are lodged! Thanks team!

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:33 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Will do

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:32 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Thank you – I will lodge. Please send me the finals – we are going to get it in the Ministers 1pm bag.

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

21 May 2020 9:29 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)



The Cabinet paper has now been lodged.

Attached are the latest drafts of the Regulations and Bill which were sent to us by PCO last night, MSD is providing no further comment so these are settled in substance but are not the 'making versions' as they are going through a final editorial check at PCO.

I have checked in with PCO they expect to send final finals through between 10 and 12.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)

From: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 8:43 AM

To: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi,

Just a further update on this – can you please send through the final regs when you get them at 10am?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

| Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP; Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:08 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Thank you!

Sent with BlackBerry Work

([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 5:07 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Attached are the latest version of the Regs. Please note we are providing minor feedback to PCO on these, I will send you the finals when we have them, which will be before 10am tomorrow.

Also, I will send you the Cabinet paper, showing the minor changes made after feedback from agency consultation shortly (it is just being proofed now). Assuming you don't have any concerns with the track changes we are all good to lodge tomorrow morning

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:53 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Could you please send through the latest draft of the regs?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Sent with BlackBerry Work



([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 3:32 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the Electronic Advice Sheet for Monday's Executive Council. We will get the AM to you tomorrow.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 2:11 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Section 9(2)(a)

just confirming that the Office would like the regulations to go to Executive Council next week please.

Cheers Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a) [redacted] Section 9(2)(k) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k) [redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**Subject:** Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a) [redacted]

The advice sheet for the regulations for the income relief payment is ready, but we need to know the date of the Executive Council the regulations will be going to. As previously discussed, we would prefer Tuesday 2 June, but can do Monday 25 May if needed – just let us know.

The agency consultation on the Cabinet paper on the legislative changes for the income relief payment has gone well and we have only received minor comments, so are on track to provide an updated version to you tonight. Are you aware of or expecting any significant Ministerial feedback?

Thanks so much

Section 9(2)(a) [redacted]

Section 9(2)(a) [redacted] | Policy Manager | Welfare System and Income Support  
**Ministry of Social Development**  
Section 9(2)(k) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:43:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [Showing changes - Social Security COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income Amendment Bill Approval for Introduction \(002\).docx](#)  
[Clean - Social Security COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income Amendment Bill Approval for Introduction \(002\).docx](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi **Section 9(2)(a)**

As mentioned, attached is the clean version of the Cabinet paper, which, subject to any final feedback from the office is ready to lodge tomorrow morning.

I have also attached a version showing the minor changes from agency feedback and QA.

Would be good to get an email confirming the Minister is happy to lodge this version before 10am tomorrow.

Thanks so much,

**Section 9(2)(a)**

**From:** **Section 9(2)(a)**

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:07 PM

**To:** **Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)**

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi **Section 9(2)(a)**

Attached are the latest version of the Regs. Please note we are providing minor feedback to PCO on these, I will send you the finals when we have them, which will be before 10am tomorrow.

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**Section 9(2)(a)**

**From:** **Section 9(2)(a)**

**Section 9(2)(k)**

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:53 PM

**To:** **Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)**

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council



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Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

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[www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a) <Section 9(2)(k)>

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 3:32 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

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Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20-May 2020 2:11 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

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Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:59 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Advice sheet for regulations (COVID-19 income relief payment) - need confirmation of the date for the Executive Council

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

The advice sheet for the regulations for the income relief payment is ready, but we need to know the date of the Executive Council the regulations will be going to. As previously discussed, we would prefer Tuesday 2 June, but can do Monday 25 May if needed – just let us know.

The agency consultation on the Cabinet paper on the legislative changes for the income relief payment has gone well and we have only received minor comments, so are on track to provide an updated version to you tonight. Are you aware of or expecting any significant Ministerial feedback?

Thanks so much

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Policy Manager | Welfare System and Income Support  
Ministry of Social Development

Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday  
**Date:** Friday, 22 May 2020 11:44:27 AM  
**Attachments:** [20200522 Aide-memoire for Cabinet CIRP to be income.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the updated AM which reflects that it is for both Cabinet and Executive Council and that it has not yet been decided that there will be no Select Committee.

Let me know if you need anything further on this.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 May 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Just checking – we were going to do a combined AM for Cabinet and EC? Or are you doing a separate one? If combined we will need to indicate in this AM.

Also could you please clarify that we haven't had confirmation about select committee process yet so can't confirm it won't happen for sure. Also – Section 9(2)(b)(i)

It would be good to note in the AM as well.

Sorry – things keep changing on us!

Cheers Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 12:52 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(b); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the aide-memoire to support the Minister at Cabinet on Monday. While some of it is covered in the talking points, it may be worth noting if the Minister would like to have more of the eligibility criteria for the relief payment on hand then this is set out in the appendix of the Cab paper.

Also just checking you got the finals of the Bill and Regs from § 9(2) ?

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday  
**Date:** Friday, 22 May 2020 11:16:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

No worries. This will be a combined AM for Cabinet and EC. I will make those updates now, and get it through to you shortly

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 May 2020 11:13 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

Just checking – we were going to do a combined AM for Cabinet and EC? Or are you doing a separate one? If combined we will need to indicate in this AM.

Also could you please clarify that we haven't had confirmation about select committee process yet so can't confirm it won't happen for sure. Also – s 9(2)(f)(iv)

. It would be good to note in the AM as well.

Sorry – things keep changing on us!

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 12:52 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Aide-memoire for Cabinet on Monday

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see attached the aide-memoire to support the Minister at Cabinet on Monday. While some of it is covered in the talking points, it may be worth noting if the Minister would like to have more of the eligibility criteria for the relief payment on hand then this is set out in the appendix of the Cab paper.

Also just checking you got the finals of the Bill and Regs from s 9(2) ?

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: AM for Cabinet Oral item on temporary income relief  
**Date:** Friday, 1 May 2020 4:59:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[DRAFT 01052020 report to Joint Ministers.docx](#)  
[20200501 FINAL v2 AM Temporary Income Relief Oral Item.docx](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

The updated AM and report are attached. Please note that the report is still a draft and being reviewed internally, but reflects what we think the current state of play is (subject to further Ministerial feedback that is expected to come through).

Have a wonderful weekend

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Friday, 1 May 2020 3:57 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: AM for Cabinet Oral item on temporary income relief

This is really great Section 9(2)(a). Thank you. As per Section 9(2)(a)'s email to Section 9(2)(a) – is it possible to include advice on what we are doing on 'exit strategy' part of the equation?

If not – just let me know.

Si  
bb  
on

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Friday, 1 May 2020 3:42 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** AM for Cabinet Oral item on temporary income relief

**Importance:** High

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached the joint AM to support Minister Robertson/Minister Sepuloni for the Cabinet Oral item on temporary income relief.

Please let us know if there are any changes as soon as possible.

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | Level 11 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Cirp Legislation  
**Date:** Monday, 25 May 2020 5:08:04 PM

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Apologies for the delay on this. We're just waiting to confirm some text internally and will send you the report and draft welfare programme as soon as we receive this confirmation.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 3:00 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(k); Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Cirp Legislation

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Yes that's right – it's a noting paper outlining further operational details of CIRP and seeking feedback on the draft welfare programme.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 2:54 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: Cirp Legislation

Ok. I assume you don't need to get it signed tonight?

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)  
Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 2:44 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: Cirp Legislation

Hi Section 9(2)(a),

Re: the welfare programme report - would it be okay if we aimed for 4:30?

Thanks,  
Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
; Fiona Carter-Giddings  
> Simon MacPherson  
<Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)>

**Subject:** Cirp Legislation

Hi team,

The CIRP legislation has been approved for introduction. EC is at 4pm today – so will let you know when the regulations have been agreed.

Cabinet requested minor wording amendments to the paper. Just confirming with Cabinet Office about what is needed here.

Can you please let me know when the Welfare Programme Paper is coming through.

Regards, Section 9(2)(a)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues,  
Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation  
**Date:** Monday, 18 May 2020 12:42:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Great! Thank you

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 12:39 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

The office has asked for feedback no later the cop 20 May

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** Monday, 18 May 2020, 12:12 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

Thanks so much Section 9(2)(a)

It would be great if you could let us know if feedback is not going to be able to come in by COP tomorrow and when we could expect it.

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 11:40 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Cc:** Fiona Carter-Giddings Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(a)



Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

Hi team,

Just confirming that this paper is now out for consultation.

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

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[www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Monday, 18 May 2020, 11:21 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Cc:** Fiona Carter-Giddings <Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)>

**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Service Delivery provided advice that if a person lost their job on 30 October (a Friday), there may be a small number of people who would not receive notice of this (i.e. they turn up to work on Friday and are told not to come back next week), so expecting people to apply on the day they lost their job may be unreasonable. This gives people a further two weeks to put in application, but they are only eligible if they lost their job on or before 30 October. Let us know if this is a problem.

Cheers

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 May 2020 11:16 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Fiona Carter-Giddings

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

Hi Section 9(2),

Just one further question on this one before it goes for consultation:

Why will people be able to apply until 13 November 2020?

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

Section 9(2)(a)  
Section

**Date:** Friday, 15 May 2020, 4:22 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Fiona Carter-Giddings

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** For consultation - Cabinet paper on CIRP legislation

Kia ora Section 9(2)(a)  
Section 9(2)

Attached is the cover report, the draft Cabinet paper and the draft Bill and Amendment Regulations to ensure the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment can be treated as income for benefit and public and community housing purposes.

The cover report seeks agreement to circulate the draft Cabinet paper and legislation for Ministerial and cross-Party consultation, with feedback due by close of business Tuesday 19 May. We appreciate these are tight timeframes but it is what is required to have the paper considered at Cabinet on Monday 25 May and subsequently, the Bill introduced and passed by 8 June. The drafts are being circulated for agency consultation at the same time.

In regards to the timeframe for passing the Bill, an indicative timeframe is attached as an Appendix to the cover report. We have spoken with the Office of the Clerk – who have advised that the 2 day rule (for the Bill to sit on the order paper) doesn't apply if legislation proceeds under urgency. The did seem weary about the use of urgency and suggested that legislation can be introduced on any day, and then urgency can be used later ie it can sit for a day or two until the first reading etc proceeds under urgency, which provides somewhat more opportunity for scrutiny.

We think it would be best for the office to confirm the approach for passing the Bill with the Office of the Leader of the House to explore what would work best.



Happy to discuss any of the above further.

Nga mihi nui,

Section  
9(2)(a)



Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Income relief payment - welfare programme  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 4:51:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Termination payments refer to any of the following payments that a person receives in relation to the termination of their employment:

- a payment in lieu of notice terminating the person's employment
- holiday pay
- a payment in lieu of accumulated leave
- a payment contingent on the completion of a fixed-term engagement
- a retirement payment

Redundancy payments for the purposes of CIRP are defined as payments of more than \$30,000 (before the deduction of income tax) made in relation to the termination of a person's employment if—

(a) either—

- (i) the main reason for the termination is that the person's position is or will be superfluous to the employer's needs, and the person is not a seasonal worker; or
- (ii) the person's usual seasonal employment is not made available by the employer mainly because the person's position, or usual position, is or will be superfluous to the employer's needs; and

(b) the payment is not a specified excluded payment or a retirement payment as defined in the Social Security Regulations 2018

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(b)

1 The Aurora Centre | Level 11 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(b)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 May 2020 4:30 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(b)  
**Subject:** FW: Income relief payment - welfare programme

Hi,

Please see feedback below from the office.

Cheers, <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 May 2020, 4:28 PM  
**To:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>  
**Subject:** RE: Income relief payment - welfare programme

Thanks <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

Can I ask for more information on what a termination payment is please and how it is different to a redundancy payment? I haven't heard the term before.  
Also if we could cc MoF please (just in the interest of time so he gets it when we do)

**From:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>  
**Subject:** FW: Income relief payment - welfare programme

Hey <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

What do you reckon about this?

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020, 11:00 AM  
**To:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>  
**Subject:** Income relief payment - welfare programme

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

A few things about the income relief payment welfare programme –

1. We are planning to send you the draft welfare programme and a cover report this Friday, and then provide the final welfare programme for the Minister's approval on Friday 29 May. This approach will give some opportunity for the Minister to give her feedback on the draft welfare programme before it is finalised, though we

note that many of the relief payment settings represent the only feasible option given implementation timeframes, so we're quite limited in what we can change.

2. Ahead of this, we wanted to test where we have landed with how we treat those who lose their job due to COVID-19 while they are on leave. Our approach is in the attached document – please let us know if there are any issues with this.
3. Does the office have a preference as to whether the cover report for the draft welfare programme is forwarded or cc'ed to MoF? Either way Treasury will be consulted on it.

Happy to chat

Many thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | Level 11 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Income relief payment - welfare programme  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 5:39:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [Image001.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Apologies for this but we've had some further discussions about these timeframes. In order to provide you with the most useful draft of the welfare programme, we will instead send you the draft welfare programme and cover report by COB this coming Monday 25 May. The other dates would stay the same (ie final welfare programme by Friday 29 May, and we would need the Minister's approval by Wednesday 3 June).

Very happy to discuss if there are concerns with this proposal.

Also, I realise you're flat out and likely have not had a chance to read the document I attached in my last email – the main thing we need to test with the office is the fact that when someone loses a job due to COVID-19 while on paid parental leave, they won't be able to receive paid parental leave at the same time as the relief payment.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 11:00 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Income relief payment - welfare programme

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

A few things about the income relief payment welfare programme –

1. We are planning to send you the draft welfare programme and a cover report this Friday, and then provide the final welfare programme for the Minister's approval on Friday 29 May. This approach will give some opportunity for the Minister to give her feedback on the draft welfare programme before it is finalised, though we note that many of the relief payment settings represent the only feasible option given implementation timeframes, so we're quite limited in what we can change.
2. Ahead of this, we wanted to test where we have landed with how we treat those who lose their job due to COVID-19 while they are on leave. Our approach is in the attached document – please let us know if there are any issues with this.
3. Does the office have a preference as to whether the cover report for the draft

welfare programme is forwarded or cc'ed to MoF? Either way Treasury will be consulted on it.

Happy to chat

Many thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)

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RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 7:10:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

H Section 9(2)(a)  
(a)

A delay in Cabinet agreement will mean a commensurate delay in implementation – there is a six-week implementation period from agreement. I'll put that in the AM.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 7:02 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi,

Sorry one more thing, can you please include in the am about what happens if we don't get through swc tomorrow. I.e. what it does to the implementation timeframes?

Happy to have a more free and frank in an email if that helps.

Section 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 6:18 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)



**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi Team,

I have clarified with <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> that what <sup>Section 9(2)</sup> was after is: a summary of what was included in the paper about how it will be in msd's system and people can access other support and checks around applying.

I hope that helps.

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cti  
on

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>

**Date:** Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 5:57 PM

**To:** <sup>Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)</sup>

**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)</sup>  
(a)

What particular information is wanted about how this will work operationally? Depending on what's wanted, we might be able to provide some information but there's lots that will still be worked through ahead of the Welfare Programme.

The safeguards information I'm getting some wording checked through our integrity team, so that will have to be first thing tomorrow. I can talk you through likely content over the phone this evening if that's helpful.

Everything else we can update by 9pm.

Thanks,

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

<sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup>

<sup>Section 9(2)(k)</sup>

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 5:42 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** FW: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Feedback on the am. Is it possible to get something back by 9pm please?

Section

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Date:** Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 5:28 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Thanks Section 9(2)(a)

Some feedback from me please:

- Can the AM please include the list of those who are eligible, the list who aren't and the list who we will come back to with final decisions?
- Can the AM also include information about how the payment will work operationally?
- Can we also get the info Debbie mentioned around safeguards and checks?
- Minister has also agreed to two additional recs to be tabled at the committee (which are already in the paper itself):
  - o That those on Super can get this payment, and that couples who qualify will get two persons worth
  - o Can you please ask MSD to draft these recs and include this as a section in the speaking notes?

If we could get an updated AM by 9pm please and ideally if I could get the new recs sooner so I can circulate to MoF too please

Thanks!

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 5:06 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** FW: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Please find the am attached. Please let me know if you want to add anything.

MSD is working on the integrity table. Will send it over in the morning.

9/2  
ch  
on

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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

From: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Date: Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 4:20 PM

To: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Simon MacPherson

Fiona Carter-Giddings

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Subject: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached an aide memoire to support the Minister with her Cabinet paper at SWC tomorrow.

We've kept this pretty short, given the Minister is quite well across the paper and the issues. However, happy to add in more information if more detail is needed or there's anything not covered in here, e.g. equity or integrity.

Happy to discuss this if you have any questions at all – I think [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a) is hoping to speak to you after 5 anyway.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

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RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 7:02:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks Section 9(2)(a), that's great.

Suggested recs as requested. Please note these have not been checked by other agencies given the time, but do reflect the paper so shouldn't present any issues.

1. **agree** that Superannuitants or Veteran's Pension recipients over 65 years (who are not non-qualified partners and have not included a non-qualified partner) can receive this payment on top of their New Zealand Superannuation/Veteran's Pension
2. **note** that if both partners in a relationship meet the eligibility criteria, each of them would be eligible to receive the full rate of payment (i.e., up to a total of \$980 per couple per week)

Will include these in the AM speaking notes.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 6:19 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi Team,

I have clarified with Section 9(2)(a) that what she was after is: a summary of what was included in the paper about how it will be in msd's system and people can access other support and checks around applying.

I hope that helps.

Section 9(2)(a)

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From: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Date: Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 5:57 PM

To: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a)

What particular information is wanted about how this will work operationally? Depending on what's wanted, we might be able to provide some information but there's lots that will still be worked through ahead of the Welfare Programme.

The safeguards information I'm getting some wording checked through our integrity team, so that will have to be first thing tomorrow. I can talk you through likely content over the phone this evening if that's helpful.

Everything else we can update by 9pm.

Thanks,

[REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a)

[REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a)

[REDACTED] Section 9(2)(k)

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From: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2020 5:42 PM

To: [REDACTED] Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Subject: FW: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Feedback on the am. Is it possible to get something back by 9pm please?

sa  
ctb



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([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 5:28 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Thanks Section 9(2)(a)

Some feedback from me please:

- Can the AM please include the list of those who are eligible, the list who aren't and the list who we will come back to with final decisions?
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  - o Can you please ask MSD to draft these recs and include this as a section in the speaking notes?

If we could get an updated AM by 9pm please and ideally if I could get the new recs sooner so I can circulate to MoF too please

Thanks!

**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 April 2020 5:06 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** FW: REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Please find the am attached. Please let me know if you want to add anything.

MSD is working on the integrity table. Will send it over in the morning.

Section

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** Tuesday, 28 Apr 2020, 4:20 PM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** REP/20/4/440 - Aide Memoire Temporary Income Relief Cabinet paper

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached an aide memoire to support the Minister with her Cabinet paper at SWC tomorrow.

We've kept this pretty short, given the Minister is quite well across the paper and the issues. However, happy to add in more information if more detail is needed or there's anything not covered in here, e.g. equity or integrity.

Happy to discuss this if you have any questions at all – I think Section 9(2)(a) is hoping to speak to you after 5 anyway.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a) Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:08:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

We have revised the timeline for the legislative process for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment in line with feedback you received from the Office of the Leader of the House. The timeline is below, we wanted to test this with you before any revised formal advice came over. The new timeline does not include time for a Select Committee process and would see the Minister seeking Power to Act for LEG at Cabinet on Monday 18 May. We would provide an aide-memoire, including a Minute to table for this.

Our intention is to circulate the draft LEG paper for consultation by Friday (tomorrow). We think it may be easiest to reflect advice on LEG changes required and the timeline as part of the Cover Report to the LEG paper, rather than a stand-alone paper (like that which I emailed through on Wednesday). If you would still like a revised stand-alone paper, let us know and we can provide it to you shortly.

Date	Action
By Friday 15 May	Draft LEG paper for consultation Aide-memoire for Cabinet
Monday 18 May	Oral item seeking Cabinet agreement for LEG to have Power to Act
Tuesday 19 May (COP)	Feedback required from consultation
Wednesday 20 May	Final paper and Aide-Memoire to the Ministers office
Thursday 21 May	LEG paper lodged
Tuesday 26 May	Decisions by Cabinet Legislation Committee
Wednesday 27 May/ Thursday 28 May (TBC)	Bill introduced and passed under urgency
TBC	Royal Assent
TBC, prior to 8 June 2020	Bill commences/ comes into force
Monday 8 June	The relief payment goes live

It would be great to get your thoughts. Happy to discuss any of the above further.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)  
Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)







**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 8:54 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Fiona Carter-Giddings  
Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process

Thank you!

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020, 8:50 AM  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
[Redacted] Fiona Carter-Giddings  
Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Thanks for this.  
We will revise the timelines in light of this and send you through a revised report.

Thanks again,

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 May 2020 8:46 AM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Cc: Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k); Fiona Carter-Giddings

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process

Hi,

Thanks for sending this through. We have checked the timeframes with the Office of the leader of the House and they have advised:

Section 9(2)(g)(i)

The Office of the leader of the House has suggested that only Option1 is feasible and this may still not be possible on the dates proposed due to other LEG-he has asked if it can be brought forward to the previous week- Maybe power to act for LEG? If it then could be done on 27 May.

Can you please have a think about what this means in terms of timeframes and send through a revised paper with timelines?

Happy to chat,

Cheers, Section 9(2)(a)

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From: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Date: Tuesday, 12 May 2020, 3:50 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Fiona Carter-Giddings

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Section 9(2)  
); Section  
9(2)(k)

**Subject:** Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)</sup><sub>(a)</sub>,

Please see the attached the report REP/20/5/511 COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

<sup>Section 9(2)</sup><sub>(a)</sub>



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Support needed for Leg next week  
**Date:** Monday, 25 May 2020 12:08:27 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[2020 05 25 Clause by clause analysis - Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill.docx](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see as requested attached the second lot of notes with:

- General bullet points for the bill and what it does
- Clause by clause analysis of the bill

Please let <sup>S</sup> 9(2) or I know if you need anything else, including any hard copies/pack for the House. We're confirming the exact number of officials that can attend with <sup>Section 9(2)(a)</sup> /PCO, but looks like there will be at least two of us there – we'll let you know once we have confirmed who will be coming.

Nga mihi,



Section 9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst | Welfare System and Income Support

Section 9(2)(k)



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Friday, 22 May 2020 4:21 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a)

**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k); Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** RE: Support needed for Leg next week

Hi <sup>Section 9(2)</sup> (a)

Please see attached the draft speeches for the first, second and third reading – any questions/changes needed please let <sup>S</sup> 9(2) or I know

Nga mihi,



Section 9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst | Welfare System and Income Support

Section 9(2)(k)



**From:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 May 2020 2:09 PM

**To:** Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

[Redacted content]

Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Cc: Fiona Carter-Giddings Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Subject: RE: Support needed for Leg next week

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

That shouldn't be a problem. Just note that everything will be relatively short as the legislative changes are relatively minor (and the Bill is very short!).

Cheers

Section 9(2)(a)

From: Section 9(2)(a); Section 9(2)(k)

Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 1:59 PM

To: Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Cc: Fiona Carter-Giddings Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

Subject: Support needed for Leg next week

Hi team,

The Office has asked if MSD is able to support with content for the CIRP Bill next-week?

In line with standard legislative needs if we could please get the following:

- Draft speech for first reading, second reading and third reading
- General bullet points for the bill and what it does
- Specific committee-stage notes broken down by parts in the bill (needs to be more detailed than general bullet points)

Ideally if we can get the speeches on Friday and the rest of the notes by midday Monday that would be great

Happy to discuss – I know you are flat out,

Cheers Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(b) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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Please note information about meetings related to the Ministers' portfolios will be proactively released (this does not include personal or constituency matters). For each meeting in scope, the summary would list: date, time (start and finish), brief description, location, who the meeting was with, and the portfolio. If you attend a meeting with the Minister on behalf of an organisation, the name of the organisation will be released. If you are a senior staff member at an organisation, or meet with the Minister in your personal capacity, your name may also be released. The location of the meeting will be released, unless it is a private residence. The proactive release will be consistent with the provisions in the Official Information Act, including privacy considerations. Under the Privacy Act 1993 you have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, or are concerned about the release of your information in the meeting disclosure, please contact the sender. You can read more about the proactive release policy at <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Proactive-Releases#MS>

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k) [Fiona Carter-Giddings](#); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** RE: Support needed for Leg next week  
**Date:** Friday, 22 May 2020 4:21:02 PM  
**Attachments:** [2020.05.22 First reading speech - Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill.docx](#)  
[2020.05.22 Second reading speech - Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill.docx](#)  
[2020.05.22 Third reading speech - Social Security \(COVID-19 Income Relief Payment to be Income\) Amendment Bill.docx.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

Hi [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#),

Please see attached the draft speeches for the first, second and third reading – any questions/changes needed please let [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) or I know

Nga mihi,



Section 9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Analyst | Welfare System and Income Support

Section 9(2)(k)



**From:** [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 May 2020 2:09 PM

**To:** [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

**Cc:** Fiona Carter-Giddings

**Subject:** RE: Support needed for Leg next week

Hi [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

That shouldn't be a problem. Just note that everything will be relatively short as the legislative changes are relatively minor (and the Bill is very short!).

Cheers

[Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

**From:** [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Section 9\(2\)\(k\)](#)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 May 2020 1:59 PM

**To:** [Section 9\(2\)\(a\)](#); [Section 9\(2\)\(k\)](#)

**Subject:** Support needed for Leg next week

Hi team,

The Office has asked if MSD is able to support with content for the CIRP Bill next week?

In line with standard legislative needs if we could please get the following:

- Draft speech for first reading, second reading and third reading
- General bullet points for the bill and what it does
- Specific committee stage notes broken down by parts in the bill (needs to be more



detailed than general bullet points)

Ideally if we can get the speeches on Friday and the rest of the notes by midday Monday that would be great

Happy to discuss – I know you are flat out,

Cheers,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a) | Private Secretary (Social Development)

Section 9(2)(k)

Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, Minister for Social Development, Minister for Disability Issues, Associate Minister for Pacific Peoples, Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** Simon Macpherson; Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Date:** REP/20/5/495 - Covid-19 Income Relief Payment Operational Details  
**Attachments:** Thursday, 7 May 2020 5:54:13 PM  
image001.png  
REP 20 5 495 Cover Sheet COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Operational Details.pdf  
REP 20 5 495 COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Operational Details.pdf

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached REP/20/5/495 - Covid-19 Income Relief Payment Operational Details.

Please let me know us know if you have any questions on this at all, Section 9(2)(a) or I available to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(a)

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand



**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k) Simon MacPherson; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)

**Subject:** REP/20/5/508 COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme  
**Date:** Monday, 25 May 2020 5:23:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[20200525 CIRP v1.9 clean version .doc](#)  
[2020-05-25 Cover Sheet CIRP report for draft welfare programme.docx](#)  
[2020-05-25 scanned signed version CIRP welfare programme report.pdf](#)  
[2020-05-25 FINAL report for CIRP welfare programme.docx](#)

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please find attached the draft welfare programme and the cover report for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme. We seek feedback on the draft welfare programme by COB this Wednesday 27 May. As the report notes, we will provide a final version of the welfare programme this Friday 29 May, for the Minister's approval by 3 June 2020.

Many thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)

Policy Analyst | Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(k)

The Aurora Centre | Level 11 | 56 The Terrace | PO Box 1556 | Wellington | New Zealand





**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Section 9(2)(a); Fiona Carter-Giddings; Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(b)  
**Subject:** Report - COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 May 2020 3:49:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [20200512 REP 20 5 511 COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process.docx](#)  
[Coversheet REP 20 5 511 COVID19 Income Relief Payment legislative process.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Section 9(2)(a)

Please see the attached the report REP/20/5/511 COVID19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process.

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,

Section 9(2)(a)



Section 9(2)(a)  
Policy Analyst  
Income Support Policy

Section 9(2)(b)



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**From:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**To:** Section 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** [Justine Cornwall](#); [Simon MacPherson](#); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k); [Fiona Carter-Giddings](#); Section 9(2)(a); 9(2)(k)  
**Subject:** Request for additional info on temporary income relief payment  
**Date:** Friday, 24 April 2020 11:51:39 AM  
**Importance:** High

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H Section 9(2)(a)

Please see below the information on your request for additional info on the temporary income relief payment. Please call me on Section 9(2)(k) if you need anything further or have questions. At this stage we are still hoping to provide a draft Cabinet paper to offices around 4pm (but it could be later).

#### Options:

- Option 1 is preferred as it best meets the policy intent, uses MSD's usual verification processes so has higher integrity and provides the best service for clients to access all the support they are entitled to.
- Option 1 ensures:
  - clients receive all of their payments from MSD at the same time and on the same pay day. Option 2 will mean clients receive the temporary payment earlier than supplementary assistance and once all assistance is granted, they will receive multiple payments each week.
  - it is easier for people to transition on to the new payment from a main benefit (if they lost their job after 1 March), easier to transition onto a main benefit if they are still unemployed at the end of the 12-week entitlement period, and manage changes in circumstances more seamlessly.
- Option2:
  - carries risk that some clients receive incorrect payments as the two payment systems cannot easily interact. This could mean some main benefits are overpaid, creating debts for our beneficiaries who have already entered the welfare system due to job loss and elect to transfer to the temporary payment.
  - Even if a link to a calculator and supplementary assistance is provided under option 2, it is still likely to result in fewer applications for additional support.
- Across all of the options, s 9(2)(g)(i)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]
  - Whether the payment is delivered through SWIFTT or the portal (similar to the wage subsidy) the payment will still have Work and Income branding.
  - Under option 1, people applying for the new payment will face the same integrity checks as beneficiaries and will likely face more similar processing times as people accessing other MSD supports. Under option 2, these people may have preferential treatment because it may mean quicker processing for applications made for the temporary income relief payment and contains less integrity checks.

Taxable treatment:

- The temporary income relief payment will be made through a Ministerial Welfare Programme which means by default it would not be taxable.
- The Income Tax Act could be amended to make the temporary income relief payment taxable, however for MSD to operationalise such a payment it would increase the implementation timeframes significantly, and the payment would not be in place by the time that the wage subsidy application close on 9 June 2020.
- To make this payment taxable through our usual IT systems would add at least three months onto the implementation timeframes, and a manual work-around (which would require significant on-going resource and has its own set of risks) would add one month.
- To mitigate this, the proposed payment rate of \$490pw is closely aligned with the after tax full-time rate of the wage subsidy. The wage subsidy is paid to employers and passed on to employees through regular earnings so is subject to PAYE, ACC levies and student loan deductions (if any). A person in full-time work on tax code M, paying ACC levies and receiving the full wage subsidy without additional earnings, would receive \$494pw.





# Memo

**To:** Section 9(2)(a), Private Secretary  
**From:** Section 9(2)(a), Senior Policy Analyst  
**Date:** 15 April 2020  
**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE

## Further information on implementation timeframes for temporary income relief options

### Purpose

- 1 This memo provides further advice on implementation timeframes for temporary income relief options to better support low-to-middle income people who experience a significant reduction in their income because of COVID-19.

### Further information in implementation timeframes

- 2 On 7 April 2020, Ministers received further advice on options to better support low-to-middle income people who experience a significant reduction in their income because of COVID-19. The advice noted three main options:
  - Option 1: A time-limited weekly payment after job loss (instead of a main benefit), paid on an individual basis – similar to Job Loss Cover (3-month implementation timeframe).
  - Option 2: A time-limited weekly top-up payment after job loss (paid on top-off an existing payment, such as a main benefit or Accommodation Supplement) – similar to ReStart (2-month implementation timeframe).
  - Option 3: A lump-sum payment for all new recipients of Accommodation Supplement or a main benefit (2-week implementation timeframe).
- 3 The advice noted that MSD would continue to consider the feasibility of delivering option 1 in a shorter timeframe by using a high trust model and similar payment mechanism to the wage subsidy scheme (paid outside the usual MSD payment systems). Further consideration would need to be given to the trade-offs/risks with using a different payment mechanism.
- 4 MSD will work with other agencies to provide further advice to Joint Ministers by the end of this week on the trade-offs and risks with options that reduce implementation timeframes. At a high-level:
  - The implementation timeframes for option 1 could be reduced to around 2-4 weeks (depending on the option agreed by Ministers) if the payment was implemented outside of MSD's usual payment system with minimal interactions with existing supports. This payment would need to be delivered via a self-declaration of job loss and a high trust model with minimal application and verification requirements. Implementing a high trust model has increased risk as this would rely on clients self-declaring eligibility, and only basic verification checks using IR information for identification purposes. There are also some key policy decisions required by Ministers on the treatment of income and eligibility for supplementary and other assistance.

- The timeframes for option 2 could also be reduced to around 4 weeks if the requirement for people to be 'newly redundant' was instead replaced with people simply being new main benefit recipients (or new Accommodation Supplement recipients) as well as the payment rules being simplified. Such a change is easier to administer because of the simpler eligibility and payment rules.
- 5 Further information on the options and key decisions required will be provided in the proposed advice to Joint Ministers later this week. There are some key choices, trade-offs and limitations with each option that need to be worked through and considered further by Ministers.
- 6 Further advice will also be provided on:
- Options for support for rental arrears
  - Section 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 7 Due to MSD operational pressures and our limited ability to deliver multiple new initiatives at the same time (e.g. a job loss payment, an amended wage subsidy, payments to other groups such as OB/UCB) phasing of implementation will likely be required. Implementing an amended wage subsidy at the same time as a temporary income relief option may not be feasible – further advice on this can be provided.

## Integrity scenarios and application processes

### Potential for individuals to exploit the payment:

- Apply for a subsidy they don't meet the hours test for
- Apply for a subsidy when they hadn't been working
- Apply for a subsidy when they are still working
- Apply for a subsidy using someone else's identity

With all of these scenarios, an applicant would be making false declarations to MSD. This risk exists for other support, including main benefits. MSD has processes for this payment (and other support) to reduce these risks.

### Procedures:

#### Up-front

- This payment will be managed through MSD's existing payment infrastructure, SWIFTT. Current design is for applicants to be subject to the same identity checks as those which applicants for main benefits currently experience at Alert Levels 3 and 4 (including identity documents, IR number and bank account details). As we continue to work through what our application processes will be for all income support products through different Alert Levels, processes for this payment may change in line with those.
- If any applicant for this payment also applies for other assistance (e.g. Accommodation Supplement), they will also be subject to the same integrity processes as other clients. This will include scrutiny of their costs and income.
- MSD is continuing to explore whether application, verification or approval processes could be adjusted to improve processing times. We will provide you with further advice if options are identified, but this will necessarily include thorough consideration of any additional integrity risk that would be introduced.
- MSD will also be ensuring that people do not receive this payment at the same time as main benefits or Student Allowance, ensuring that people do not receive more income support than they are entitled to.

#### Retrospective

- As with all payments, where there is evidence someone has deliberately committed fraud against MSD (to the detriment of the Crown and New Zealand taxpayers), MSD can prosecute that person.
- MSD will be collecting information from applicants regarding their circumstances and eligibility. Although it is not currently intended that there will be verification of these details up-front, they provide MSD with information it could check retrospectively.
- The appropriate retrospective audit approaches for this payment are still being developed. This includes exploring whether to use existing or new data-sharing mechanisms with IRD to check that individuals were working prior to their application (and not working while they were receiving this payment), or at what level they were earning.

### Potential for employers to exploit the payment:

- Applicant is let go for the period of the payment, then re-hired

Under this scenario, an employer could seek to exploit the payment by making an employee redundant with the intention of re-hiring them at a later date. This would effectively allow the employer to use the payment as a wage subsidy for unpaid leave, but create unnecessary changes in circumstances for employees, as well as potentially introduce inefficiencies in labour-market matching if there are unnecessary changes in employer/employee relationships at the end of the 12-week period.



If workers on unpaid leave were eligible for this payment, employers would have no incentive to make them redundant unnecessarily. This would reduce matching inefficiencies if there are fewer job changes.

However, employers would have stronger incentives to put employees on unpaid leave. This has a lower cost for employers than dismissing an employee (due to reduced labour search costs), and therefore may occur in more cases, with employers postponing necessary decisions on their workforce. There is therefore a risk that individuals on unpaid leave lose their jobs at the end of that 12-week period regardless, but while on unpaid leave face reduced incentives or ability to look for other work, and that they do not use the 12 weeks to transition their costs.

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# Report

**Date:** 12 May 2020

**Security Level:** IN CONFIDENCE

**To:** Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development

## COVID-19 Income Relief Payment - legislative process

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This report updates you on:
  - 1.1 the legislative changes required to charge the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment as income for the purpose of assessing eligibility for assistance in the benefit system, and
  - 1.2 the proposed timelines for the legislative process.
- 2 It also seeks your agreement to either have a significantly truncated Select Committee process or no Select Committee process.

### Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** that that joint Ministers with Power to Act agreed to establish a temporary income relief payment from 8 June 2020
- 2 **note** that joint Ministers agreed this payment would be considered income for supplementary and hardship assistance [REP/20/5/481, T2020/1335 refers]
- 3 **note** that considering this payment income for benefit purposes requires changes to the definition of income in primary, secondary and tertiary legislation
- 4 **note** that the relief payment itself will be established in a Ministerial Welfare Programme not in primary or secondary legislation
- 5 **note** that the relief payment itself will be established in a Ministerial Welfare Programme not in primary or secondary legislation
- 6 **note** this means that the proposed Bill, which will amend the definition of income in the Social Security Act 2018, must pass under urgency before 8 June 2020
- 7 **note** officials' advice is that there is insufficient time for a meaningful Select Committee process

8 **agree** to pursue

**EITHER**

- a. no Select Committee process given the urgency at which this legislation needs to be passed (**MSD's preferred option**)

**Agree / Disagree**

**OR**

- b. a truncated Select Committee process

**Agree / Disagree**

- 9 **note** that the required changes to Ministerial Welfare Programmes will happen alongside this process but do not require Cabinet approval

- 10 **forward** this report to the Minister of Finance for his information.

**Yes / No**

Section 9(2)(e)

Policy Manager  
Welfare System and Income Support Policy

Date

Hon Carmel Sepúlveda  
Minister for Social Development

Date



## **Joint Ministers recently agreed the parameters of the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment...**

- 3 On 4 May 2020, Cabinet authorised a group of Ministers comprising the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development (joint Ministers), to have Power to Act to take decisions on the proposal for a temporary income relief payment, including:
  - 3.1 any matters required to give effect to the decisions
  - 3.2 funding and appropriations
  - 3.3 drafting instructions for any legislative changes that may be required, and
  - 3.4 any other related matters to give effect to the proposals [CAB-20-MIN-0203 refers].
- 4 Subsequently, joint Ministers agreed to establish the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment ('the relief payment'), payable for up to 12 weeks to an eligible individual who experiences or has experienced a loss of work between 1 March 2020 and 30 October 2020.
- 5 The payment will be non-taxable and paid at a rate of \$490 per week for someone previously in full-time work (30 hours or more a week), and \$250 per week for someone previously in part-time work (between 15 hours and 29 hours a week) [REP/20/5/481, T2020/1335 refers]. Because it is non-taxable, it will not be treated as income for the purposes of Child Support or other types of assistance administered by Inland Revenue.

### **... including that the payment would be considered income for benefit purposes**

- 6 The relief payment will be an alternative to the main benefit, so recipients cannot receive it at the same time as a main benefit. However, recipients will be able to access other income support provided by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), such as supplementary and hardship assistance. Joint Ministers with Power to Act have agreed that the relief payment will be treated as income for these supports [REP/20/5/481, T2020/1335 refers].
- 7 Generally,<sup>1</sup> main benefits are not treated as income for supplementary or hardship assistance. This reflects that those in receipt of a main benefit have low or no income, so receipt of a main benefit should not prevent individuals from accessing supplementary assistance related to their specific costs or circumstances. Likewise, receiving supplementary assistance should not affect access to a main benefit.
- 8 While the relief payment is an alternative to the main benefit, it has a different purpose from, and will be treated differently to, a main benefit. The relief payment serves as more of an 'earnings replacement' for individuals who have lost work, rather than the main benefit which serves as more of a 'safety net' for individuals or families with low or no income from work. It is therefore paid at a comparatively higher rate.
- 9 If the relief payment was not considered income for supplementary and hardship assistance, then those receiving it would have a greater entitlement to those supports than those who receive other income, such as from paid employment. This would create an inequity between these two groups, so treating this payment as income ensures equity of entitlement.

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<sup>1</sup> A main benefit is considered income for the calculation of some supplementary and hardship assistance, for example Temporary Additional Support and the calculation of Income Related Rent Payments.

- 10 Treating this payment as income also aligns with MSD's IT systems, which enables officials to deliver the relief payment within four weeks of decisions. To implement the relief payment by 8 June, the relief payment would either need to be considered income for all supplementary assistance and hardship payments or none. Different rules would have required a significantly longer lead-in time for implementation to allow for changes to MSD's system.

### **Ensuring the relief payment is considered income requires changes to primary, secondary and tertiary legislation**

- 11 The relief payment will be established in a Ministerial Welfare Programme under Section 101 of the Social Security Act 2018 (the Act). Under current legislation, Ministerial Welfare Programmes are only considered income for Temporary Additional Support, Childcare Assistance and Special Benefit as they are excluded as income for other purposes under clause 8(a) of schedule 3 of the Act. This means primary, secondary, and tertiary legislation must be amended to ensure the relief payment is considered as income for all supplementary and hardship assistance.
- 12 The primary definition of income for the social security system sits in Schedule 3 of the Act. Other income tests and rules for supplementary and hardship payments sit across legislation including the Act, the Social Security Regulations 2018, the Public and Community Housing Management (Prescribed Elements of Calculation Mechanism) Regulations 2018 and various welfare programmes.
- 13 A change to primary legislation is required in order to charge the relief payment as income for Disability Allowance. In order to reduce the number of amendments required to secondary legislation officials recommend you progress a Bill which amends Schedule 3 of the Act to include the relief payment as income for the purposes of eligibility for supplementary and hardship assistance. This amendment will be narrow in scope and will impact only on the treatment of payments made through this specific Ministerial Welfare Programme.
- 14 Officials are working with the Parliamentary Counsel Office and intend to provide you with a draft Cabinet paper later this week.

### **Changes to legislation are required before 8 June, therefore they need to happen under urgency**

- 15 Officials are working at pace to implement the relief payment on 8 June 2020.<sup>2</sup>
- 16 s 9(2)(f)(iv)

*Given the urgency, there are questions about the ability to have a Select Committee process*

- 17 Passing the Bill under urgency means a truncated legislative process and raises questions about whether or not there is time for the Bill to be considered at a Select Committee.
- 18 Officials seek your direction on whether to have a significantly truncated Select Committee process or no Select Committee process. Indicative timelines<sup>3</sup> for both options are attached as an Appendix to this report.

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<sup>2</sup> Implementing the relief payment from 8 June coincides with the end of the Wage Subsidy on 9 June.

<sup>3</sup> Note this timeline does not include the creation of the Welfare Programme for the relief payment or amendments to Welfare Programmes as this process can happen without Cabinet approval.

Option one: No Select Committee process (MSD's preferred option)

- 19 While a Select Committee process is ideal, officials do not consider that there is time to do so meaningfully. Any substantial changes suggested through the process will not be able to be incorporated, as the legislation would be considered less than a week before the go live date and it would be too late to make any changes to MSD's systems.
- 20 Given already constrained timeframes, any changes as a result of the Select Committee (even on technical drafting changes) would be at such a late stage that it could either:
- 20.1 jeopardise the implementation date, potentially delaying access to the relief payment, or

Section 5(c)

- 21 We acknowledge the shortfalls of this approach, particularly in regard to a lack of public scrutiny. However, the changes to legislation required are relatively minor in comparison to the creation of the relief payment. Any engagement with Select Committee could only focus on the technical drafting changes in the proposed Bill, rather than the more substantial policy decisions within the Ministerial Welfare Programme (which does not involve a Select Committee process).

Option two: A truncated Select Committee process

- 22 To ensure transparency and to allow time for public scrutiny a Select Committee process is ideal. Given timeframes to ensure the Bill is able to be passed before 8 June, any Select Committee process would be significantly truncated. It is likely this process could only last for a day and a half.
- 23 The proposed indicative timeline indicates:
- the Bill could be introduced on Wednesday 3 June for first reading and Select Committee
  - the Select Committee would report back on Thursday 4 June
  - leaving Friday 5 June for the second reading, committee of the whole house, third reading and Royal assent.
- 24 The Select Committee process would likely result in the House needing to extend their sitting hours to ensure the Bill could be passed before 8 June 2020, as Friday 5 June is not a scheduled sitting day.
- 25 As noted above, there is also the risk that any changes suggested during the Select Committee process would either not be able to be incorporated, or risk implementation delays.
- 26 Whilst a truncated Select Committee process is possible, it adds significant risk to the timeline for implementation of the relief payment.

**Next steps**

- 27 Officials will provide your office with a draft Cabinet Legislation Committee paper later this week for Ministerial consultation.
- 28 The Welfare Programme which will establish the relief payment will be sent to you for approval on Friday 22 May.

File ref: REP/20/5/511 | EDRMS ref: A12512959

Author: Section 9(2)(b), Policy Analyst, Welfare System and Income Support Policy.

Responsible manager: Section 9(2)(a), Policy Manager, Welfare System and Income Support Policy.



## Appendix: Indicative timelines for changes to legislation required for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment

### Option one: No Select Committee process (MSD's preferred option)

Date	Action
Thursday 14 May	Draft LEG paper for consultation
Tuesday 19 May (COP)	Feedback required from consultation
Wednesday 20 May	Final paper to the Ministers office
Thursday 21 May	LEG paper lodged
Tuesday 26 May	Paper considered by Cabinet Legislation Committee
Tuesday 2 June	Cabinet to approve introduction of the Bill
Wednesday 3 June	Bill introduced to be passed under urgency
TBC	Royal Assent
TBC, prior to 8 June 2020	Bill commences/ comes into force
Monday 8 June	The relief payment goes live

### Option two: A truncated Select Committee process

Date	Action
Thursday 14 May	Draft LEG paper for consultation
Tuesday 19 May (COP)	Feedback required from consultation
Wednesday 20 May	Final paper to the Ministers office
Thursday 21 May	LEG paper lodged
Tuesday 26 May	Paper considered by Cabinet Legislation Committee
Tuesday 2 June	Cabinet to approve introduction of the Bill
Wednesday 3 June	First reading and Select Committee
Thursday 4 June	Select Committee report back
Friday 5 June	Second reading, committee of the whole house, third reading, Royal assent
TBC, prior to 8 June 2020	Bill commences/ comes into force
Monday 8 June	The relief payment goes live

*Losing a job due to COVID-19 while on paid parental leave, compared to other types of leave*

- 1 Joint Ministers agreed that those on unpaid leave, such as planned time off work or parental leave, would not be eligible for the relief payment. This excluded those that lose their job while on parental leave.
- 2 Further work has been done to determine how to treat people who lose their job due to COVID-19 while on leave. The table below outlines the proposed approach.

	<b>Lose job due to COVID-19 while on parental leave</b>	<b>Lose job due to COVID-19 while on non-parental leave (eg due to caring responsibilities, holidays)</b>
<b>Unpaid</b>	Eligible for relief payment	Eligible for relief payment
<b>Paid</b>	Ineligible for relief payment while the government is continuing to pay paid parental leave, but can be eligible once government stops paying (ie cannot receive both relief payment and paid parental leave at the same time). If someone transfers paid parental leave to their partner, they are eligible for the relief payment while their partner receives paid parental leave (this is similar to ACC compensation payments).	Eligible for relief payment

- 3 This approach raises some equity issues:

- If someone loses their job due to COVID-19 at the start of a long period of unpaid leave, they have likely already planned for a drop in their income so will not be experiencing an income shock similar to those that lose their jobs while not on unpaid leave.
- Termination payments do not affect someone's eligibility to the relief payment. Therefore, it could be perceived as unfair that someone is unable to receive paid parental leave at the same time as the relief payment, but could receive a large termination payment and immediately be eligible for the relief payment.

- 4 However, this approach has benefits:

- Complex requirements around the length of unpaid leave required to be eligible or ineligible would be difficult to administer and potentially confusing for potential applicants.
- Paying the relief payment concurrently with paid parental leave would create inequities with ACC recipients, and would mean that some people would be receiving two forms of relatively generous government assistance that are intended for the same purpose.
- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Inland Revenue support this approach.