

25 June 2025



s9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 2425-1133

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Response to your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 26 May 2025 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

"Under the OIA, can I please have copies of all aide memoirs, briefings, memos, notes, reports, or any other advice, sent to the Minister or their offices regarding funding decisions for your department/ministry and votes you are responsible for, in the context of Budget 2025. This includes all Budget 2025 bids for funding, impacts of funding decisions in Budget 25, and impacts of not receiving funding in Budget 2025. This can be limited to 1 November 2024 to today.

Under the OIA, I also request copies of all aide memoirs, briefings, memos, notes, reports, or any other advice, sent to your executive leadership team regarding funding decisions for departments and votes you are responsible for, in the context of Budget 2025. This includes all Budget 2025 bids for funding, impacts of funding decisions in Budget 25, and impacts of not receiving funding in Budget 2025. This can be limited to 1 November 2024 to today.

If and where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document's contents.

If and where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope"

Please note that as the Ministerial warrant for the Ethnic Communities portfolio started on 24 January 2025, the Ministry has considered the first part of your request to be from 24 January to the date of your request.

In response to your request, three documents have been found within scope of the request. They are partially withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Please note that the Ministry has not included Appendix A for Document One – 2025/26 Examination of Estimates as it is a draft document of the 2025/26 Standard Estimates Questionnaire and falls outside the scope of your request. Furthermore, the final version will soon be made publicly available on the Parliament's website.

As required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under sections 9(2)(a) of the Act are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Under section 28 of the OIA, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my response relating to this request. The relevant details can be found on their website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team:
Ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services



Ministry for
**Ethnic
Communities**
Te Tari Mātāwaka

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities

Briefing: 2025/26 Examination of Estimates: Final draft responses to the Standard Estimates Questionnaire from the Social Services and Community Committee

Date: 26 May 2025

Priority: Routine

Key details

This briefing provides you with the final draft responses to the 2025/26 Estimates Questionnaire from the Social Services and Community Committee.

Action sought

Timeframe

Provide any feedback on the responses **(as Appendix A)**.

4 June 2025

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Contact Number	Suggested 1 st contact
Fleur Murray	Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services	9(2)(a)	✓
Peter Burke	Director, Funding and Accountability	9(2)(a)	
Return electronic document to:	ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz		
File reference	EC25-9157		

Fleur M
Fleur Murray
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate Services

2025/26 Examination of Estimates: Final draft responses to the Standard Estimates Questionnaire from the Social Services and Community Committee

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with the draft final responses to the 2025/26 Standard Estimates Questionnaire (SEQ) from the Social Services and Community Committee (SSCC).

Background

2. On 23 April 2025, you were provided with the SEQ by the SSCC containing written questions for a response. Responses are due with SSCC no later than 5pm on Wednesday, 11 June 2025.

Advice

3. The Ministry has prepared responses on your behalf (as **Appendix A**). Please provide any feedback on the responses by 4 June 2025.

Next steps

4. This material is in draft form and will be updated following feedback from you and following Budget Day (if there are further post-Budget questions).
5. You will be provided with the final SEQ inclusive of final responses by 5 June 2025, together with appropriate submission material for you to provide the responses to the SSCC by 11 June 2025.
6. The full timeline to the Estimates Hearing on 18 June is as follows:

Step	Completed By
Minister receives final draft Estimates questionnaire for review	29 May
Minister receives Information Pack for Hearing	4 June
Minister receives final Estimates questionnaire	5 June
Estimates questionnaire sent to Committee by the Minister (Committee to confirm timing after Budget Day)	11 June
Preparation session with officials	18 June
Estimates hearing (Committee to confirm timing after Budget Day)	18 June

Recommendation

7. We recommend that you:

Provide feedback on the responses to the Ministry
by 4 June 2025.

Yes/☒ No



Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities

27 / 05 / 2025

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

List of Attachments

Appendix A: Draft final responses to the 2025/26 Standard Estimates Questionnaire from the Social Services and Community Committee

Released under the Official Information Act 1982



Ethnic Communities briefing

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities

Title: **Budget 2025 Draft Documentation for Vote Internal Affairs –
Ethnic Communities Appropriations**

Date: 12 March 2025

Key issues

The Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) has prepared Budget 2025 documentation for Vote Internal Affairs. This documentation does not reflect decisions yet to be made in Budget 2025. These decisions will be incorporated into the final Estimates documentation which is required to be submitted to the Minister of Finance by 1pm on Tuesday, 15 April 2025.

If any further changes are required following final Budget decisions by Cabinet, then a further set of documents will be provided to the Minister of Finance.

The attached draft documents are provided for your information and comment.

Action sought

Provide comments on the draft Budget 2025 documentation for the Ethnic Communities appropriations within Vote Internal Affairs.

Timeframe

By 1pm Wednesday,
19 March 2025

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Contact Number	Suggested 1 st contact
Mervin Singham	Chief Executive	9(2)(a)	✓
Darrin Sykes	Deputy Secretary, Enterprise Services	9(2)(a)	
Return electronic document to:	9(2)(a)		
Cohesion reference	U5XP33CHCHYA-1626599796-112		
Ministerial database reference	EC20256027		

Purpose

1. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with draft Budget 2025 documentation for Vote Internal Affairs and to seek your comments and feedback on this documentation for the Ethnic Communities appropriations. The documentation comprises:
 - 1.1 The Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2024/25 for Vote Internal Affairs; and
 - 1.2 The Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2025/26 for Vote Internal Affairs.

Background

2. Ministers responsible for appropriations in a Vote must provide sign off to the Minister of Finance that the Estimates and Supplementary Estimates documents are accurate and ready for publishing.
3. Where a Vote has more than one portfolio Minister responsible for different appropriations, the sign off should be from one of the appropriation Ministers on behalf of all the Ministers responsible for those appropriations.
4. The Minister of Internal Affairs, as Vote Minister, will sign off the Estimates documentation on behalf of all the portfolio Ministers responsible for appropriations within Vote Internal Affairs.
5. The Minister of Internal Affairs will submit Budget 2025 Estimates documentation for Vote Internal Affairs to the Minister of Finance by 1pm on Tuesday, 15 April 2025. This will include decisions based on Budget Ministers consideration of the Budget package.
6. If any further changes are required following final Budget decisions by Cabinet, then a further set of documents will be provided to the Minister of Finance.

Ethnic Communities appropriations

7. The appropriations and output expenses for which you are responsible are as follows:

Table 1: Ethnic Communities Portfolio Expenditure

Minister for Ethnic Communities responsibility for portfolio expenditure within Vote Internal Affairs
Departmental Output Expenses
Advisory and Information Services to assist Ethnic Communities (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA ¹)
Policy and Related Services – Ethnic Communities (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA)
Non-Departmental Other Expenses
Ethnic Communities Grants (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA)

8. Refer to **Appendix A** for a summary of changes to baselines for the Ethnic Communities portfolio between 2024/25 and 2025/26.

¹ MCA - Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Appropriation.

Vote Internal Affairs Budget Documents for your Review and Comment

9. Two draft Budget 2025 documents for Vote Internal Affairs are attached for your information and comment.

9.1 *The Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2024/25 for Vote Internal Affairs*

This document sets out, for each appropriation for 2024/25 only, the net financial changes and the reasons for the changes, since the 2024/25 Estimates of Appropriations for Vote Internal Affairs. The financial changes reflect those set out in the Vote Internal Affairs 2024 October and 2025 March Baseline Update submissions to the Minister of Finance. We have highlighted the information that is directly relevant to your portfolio responsibility.

9.2 *The Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2025/26 for Vote Internal Affairs*

This document sets out the 2025/26 appropriations for Vote Internal Affairs, along with the 2024/25 comparative figures for appropriated and estimated actual expenditure. This document also provides an overview for Vote Internal Affairs and trend information, along with performance information for each appropriation for 2025/26. We have highlighted the information that is directly relevant to your portfolio responsibility.

10. The attached draft documents do not reflect decisions yet to be made in Budget 2025. All changes as a result of Budget 2025 or other Cabinet decisions will be incorporated into the final Estimates documentation.

Performance Information for Appropriations

11. Non-financial performance measures are included in the Budget 2025 documents to establish performance levels for the year, given allocated funding. The overall purpose, scope and what is intended to be achieved for each appropriation are outlined in the Estimates of Appropriations 2025/26. This briefing covers only those measures that have been changed, are new or are removed.
12. For the Ethnic Communities portfolio, there is one change for the non-financial performance measures in the Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations 2024/25, refer to **Appendix B**. This change will carry through into the Estimates of Appropriations 2025/26. There are no other changes for 2025/26.

Global Warning Messages on CFISnet-generated documents

13. The attached Budget documentation has been generated by The Treasury's CFISnet system based on data and text entered by the Department. The documents that are generated by CFISnet may include messages that indicate that data is either missing, incomplete, yet to be validated, or requires suppression through system controls.
14. These warning messages are intended as reminders to the Department and The Treasury only and do not require any action or attention from you.

Final Cabinet Budget decisions

15. Budget Ministers will develop the Budget 2025 package through March and April before Cabinet agrees to a final Budget package on Monday, 14 April 2025.

16. All Cabinet/joint Ministerial decisions approved since the 2025 March Baseline Update will be included in the final Estimates documentation.
17. There are no significant issues for your attention at this stage of the Budget process.

Review of documentation and feedback

18. You are invited to review the attached documentation and provide any feedback you may have to the Department by 1pm on Wednesday, 19 March 2025 for incorporation into the final documents.

Final Budget 2025 Documentation

19. The final Budget 2025 documentation for Vote Internal Affairs will be sent to you on Thursday, 29 April 2025.

Recommendations

20. We recommend that you:

- a) **note** the contents of the draft Budget 2025 documentation for the Ethnic Communities appropriations within Vote Internal Affairs;
- b) **note** that the attached draft documents do not reflect decisions yet to be made in Budget 2025;
- c) **note** that Budget 2025 decisions will be incorporated in the final Estimates documentation;
- d) **note** that there are no significant issues for your attention at this stage of the Budget process;
- e) **provide** comments to the Department by 1pm on Wednesday, 19 March 2025 on:
 - i. The Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2024/25 for Vote Internal Affairs; and
 - ii. The Estimates of Appropriations and Supporting Information 2025/26 for Vote Internal Affairs.
- f) **note** that the Minister of Internal Affairs, as Vote Minister, will sign off the final Estimates documentation on behalf of all the portfolio Ministers responsible for appropriations within Vote Internal Affairs;
- g) **note** that the Supplementary Estimates 2024/25 and Estimates 2025/26 documentation are due for sign off and submission by the Minister of Internal Affairs to the Minister of Finance by 1pm on Tuesday, 15 April 2025;

Yes/No

- h) **note** that if any further changes are required following final Budget decisions by Cabinet, then a further set of documents will be provided to the Minister of Finance; and
- i) **note** that final Budget 2025 documentation for Vote Internal Affairs will be provided to you on Tuesday, 29 April 2025.



Mervin Singham
Chief Executive – Ministry for Ethnic Communities



Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities
15 10 31 2025

Appendix A: Summary of 2024/25 to 2025/26 Changes

Changes to baselines for the Ethnic Communities portfolio between 2024/25 and 2025/26 are shown in the following tables:

Departmental Appropriations/Output Expenses

Output Expense/Appropriation (\$000)	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Cabinet Decisions ²	Fiscally Neutral Adjustments
Advisory and Information Services to assist Ethnic Communities	8.793	9.012	0.219	0.280	(0.061)
Policy and Related Services – Ethnic Communities	4.977	4.981	0.004	0.004	-
TOTAL	13.770	13.993	0.223	0.284	(0.061)

Non-Departmental Appropriations

Category/Appropriation (\$000)	2024/25	2025/26	Change
Ethnic Communities Grants	4.232	4.232	-
TOTAL	4.232	4.232	-

² The Cabinet Decisions movements between 2024/25 and 2025/26 are primarily as follows:

- Budget 2023 initiative 'Building a Pipeline of Ethnic Talent in the Labour Market' (increase of \$4,000); and
- Joint Ministerial briefing to request to transfer accountability and appropriation for the Language Assistance Services programme from the Ministry of Building, Innovation and Employment to Ministry for Ethnic Communities (increase of \$280,000).



Appendix B: Proposed Changes to Non-Financial Information in the Supplementary Estimates 2024/25 – Ethnic Communities Portfolio

ID	Appropriation - Category	Change Proposed	Intention statement / Performance Measure	Standard	Rationale	Continues in 2025/26
<i>Amended performance measures</i>						
1	Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA – Policy and related Services – Ethnic Communities	Updated wording of measure Change in Standard	Minister's satisfaction with the quality of advice	3.5 out of 5	Wording for this measure is updated as the Ministry provides a broad range of advice not just policy advice. The standard has been set based on trend information. The rating is based on a number of attributes using the scale: 1 - Never, 2 - Some of the time, 3 - About half the time, 4 - Most of the time, 5 - Always.	Yes



Ethnic Communities briefing

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities

Copy to: Hon Brooke van Velden
Minister of Internal Affairs

Title: **Budget Day Briefing – Ethnic Communities portfolio**

Date: 12 May 2025

Key issues

This briefing explains the movements in the categories within Multi-Category Appropriations from 2024/25 to 2025/26 for the Ethnic Communities portfolio in preparation for Budget 2025.

Action sought

1. **note** the movements in appropriations (refer Appendix A).

Timeframe

By 1pm Thursday, 22 May 2025

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Contact Number	Suggested 1 st contact
Mervin Singham	Chief Executive – Ministry for Ethnic Communities	9(2)(a)	✓
Fleur Murray	Deputy Chief Executive System Capability and Programmes, Ministry for Ethnic Communities	9(2)(a)	

Return electronic document to:	9(2)(a)
Cohesion reference	U5XP33CHCHYA-1626599796-165
Ministerial database reference	EC20256039

Purpose

- 1. This briefing explains the movements in the categories within Multi-Category Appropriations from 2024/25 to 2025/26 for the Ethnic Communities portfolio.

Budget 2025

- 2. There were no Budget initiatives considered for the Ethnic Communities portfolio in Budget 2025.

Summary of movements from 2024/25 to 2025/26

- 3. The following table summarises the movements in appropriations from 2024/25 to 2025/26. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

Table 1: Summary of movements from 2024/25 to 2025/26

Change Type	Change from 2024/25 to 2025/26
	\$'000
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:	223
Transfer of the Language Assistance Services programme from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities	280
Building a Pipeline of Ethnic Talent in the Labour Market	4
Contribution towards the Ethnic Business Symposium 2024	(61)
Total	223

Recommendation

4. We recommend that you **note** the movements in appropriations (refer Appendix A).



Mervin Singham
Chief Executive – Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Hon Mark Mitchell
Minister for Ethnic Communities

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Appendix A:

Changes to the Ethnic Communities portfolio between 2024/25 and 2025/26 are shown in the following table:

Vote Internal Affairs	Appropriation Type	2024/25 \$000	2025/26 \$000	Change \$000	Reason for Change
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Appropriations (MCA)					
Advisory and Information Services to assist Ethnic Communities	Departmental Output Expense (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA)	8,793	9,012	219	The increase in this category is due to:
				280	Transfer of the Language Assistance Services programme from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities.
					Partially offset by:
				(58)	Contribution from third-party entities towards the Ethnic Business Symposium 2024, and
				(3)	Contribution from Ministry for Womens towards the Ethnic Business Symposium 2024.
Policy and Related Services - Ethnic Communities	Departmental Output Expense (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA)	4,977	4,981	4	The increase in this category is due to: Building a Pipeline of Ethnic Talent in the Labour Market.
Ethnic Communities Grants	Non-Departmental Other Expense (category within Supporting Ethnic Communities MCA)	4,232	4,232	-	No change.
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure		18,002	18,225	223	
Total Appropriations for Portfolio		18,002	18,225	223	