Schedule of Responsibilities Delegated to Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries

[10 June 2025]

This paper is presented to the House, in accordance with the suggestion of the Standing Orders Committee in its *Report on the Review of Standing Orders* [I. 18A, December 1995].

At page 76 of its report, the Standing Orders Committee recorded its support for oral questions to be asked directly of Associate Ministers who have been formally delegated defined responsibilities by Ministers having primary responsibility for particular portfolios.

The Standing Orders Committee proposed that the Leader of the House should table in the House a schedule of such delegations at least annually. The attached schedule has been prepared by the Cabinet Office for this purpose.

The schedule also includes responsibilities allocated to Parliamentary Under-Secretaries. Under Standing Orders, Parliamentary Under-Secretaries may only be asked oral questions in the House in the same way that any MP who is not a Minister can be questioned. However, they may answer questions on behalf of the principal Minister in the same way that Associate Ministers can answer.

The delegations are also included in the Cabinet Office section of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website (http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/ministers/delegated), which will be updated from time to time to reflect any substantive amendments to any of the delegated responsibilities.

Hon Chris Bishop Leader of the House

Schedule of Responsibilities Delegated to Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries as at 10 June 2025

Associate Ministers are appointed to provide portfolio Ministers with assistance in carrying out their portfolio responsibilities. The control of the portfolio always rests with the portfolio Minister. This schedule provides a summary list of the responsibilities that portfolio Ministers have delegated to Associate Ministers. In addition to these specific delegations, Ministers may involve Associate Ministers in other issues and general duties associated with the portfolio.

This schedule also includes responsibilities allocated to Parliamentary Under-Secretaries. Parliamentary Under-Secretaries are appointed by the Governor-General, by warrant, under section 8 of the Constitution Act 1986. They exercise those functions and powers assigned to them by the relevant portfolio Minister, in accordance with section 9 of the Constitution Act.

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Portfolios with Associate Ministers

Portfolio	Associate Minister	Role / Responsibility
ACC Associate Minister for ACC	Hon Nicola Grigg	All matters in respect of ACC operations relating to individual client and levy payer matters, including complaints; Attending events, as agreed with the Minister for ACC; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Agriculture Associate Minister of Agriculture	Hon Mark Patterson	All matters within the Agriculture portfolio relating to: • rural health, including mental health; • rural infrastructure matters relating to rural transport and communications (the Minister of Agriculture retains responsibility for all other infrastructure areas, including water and irrigation); • wool; • Landcorp Farming Ltd; • other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Associate Minister of Agriculture	Hon Andrew Hoggard	All matters within the Agriculture portfolio relating to: animal welfare, including legislative changes; skills; significant natural areas; other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Associate Minister of Agriculture	Hon Nicola Grigg	All matters within the Agriculture portfolio relating to: • horticulture; • rural women; • other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Defence Associate Minister of Defence	Hon Chris Penk	Functions and responsibilities of the Defence portfolio relating to: • the Defence Estate; • the Defence Industry, including the New Zealand Defence Industry Association, with the exception of anything related to technology, cyber or space related engagements; • regulatory review; • maritime fleet renewal; • other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Education Associate Minister of Education	Hon David Seymour	 Functions and responsibilities of the Education portfolio relating to school choice, in particular: leading the work related to the reintroduction and implementation of a partnership schools model, and the introduction and implementation of a policy to allow State schools to become partnership schools; exploring further options to increase school choice and expand access to State integrated and private schools, including reviewing the private school funding formula to better reflect changes in student numbers; (the Minister of Education retains responsibility for managing the overall network of schools, including school property provision in the Crownowned portfolio, and policy changes that increase choice of State schools); Functions and responsibilities of the Education portfolio relating to school attendance, in particular: leading work related to attendance, with a focus on reporting and enforcement action to increase regular attendance, including centrally collecting and publishing attendance data; leading work related to Ka Ora, Ka Ako / Healthy School Lunches, focused on programme improvements and cost effectiveness;

		Functions and responsibilities of the Education portfolio relating to early childhood education (ECE), in particular: • responsibility for ECE policy and operations, including funding, regulations, workforce and engagement with the key ECE stakeholders (this delegation excludes Te Whāriki, the early childhood curriculum, and the transition from ECE to compulsory schooling, which remains the responsibility of the Minister of Education, and Family Boost matters which are the responsibility of the Minister of Revenue); Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Energy Associate Minister for Energy	Hon Shane Jones	All matters relating to engine fuel security, specifications, and infrastructure. This includes leadership on policy, legislation, regulations and rules governing the import, refining, storage and distribution of engine fuels; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Environment Associate Minister for the Environment	Hon Andrew Hoggard	All matters relating to the overall oversight of the Jobs for Nature programme, including responsibility for Jobs for Nature programme investments funded through Vote Environment;
		Responsibility for policy development for any amendments to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 relating to Significant Natural Areas, and any further policy work on biodiversity credits;
		Responsibility for farm-facing freshwater instruments, including:
		• implementation of Freshwater Farm Plans, policy development relating to any amendments to the relevant Regulations, and the development of industry assurance programme standards under Part 9A of the Resource Management Act 1991;
		 policy development relating to any amendments to the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020;
		 policy development relating to any amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water 2007;
		policy development for new national direction on water storage;

		(The Minister for the Environment and the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform as relevant retain responsibility for the exercise of any statutory functions and powers under the Resource Management Act 1991); Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Finance Associate Minister of Finance	Hon David Seymour	Day-to-day responsibilities, functions and powers as a shareholder of the following Crown-owned companies and as the Minister of Finance relating to certain other entities: • Crown entities: New Zealand Productivity Commission; Earthquake Commission Toka Tū Ake; • SOEs: Airways Corporation of NZ Ltd; Animal Control Products Ltd; AsureQuality Ltd; Electricity Corporation of NZ Ltd; Kordia Group Ltd; Landcorp Farming Ltd; Meteorological Service of NZ Ltd; NZ Post Ltd; Quotable Value Ltd; Transpower NZ Ltd; • Crown entity companies: Auckland Light Rail Ltd; Crown Irrigation Investments Ltd; New Zealand Growth Capital Partners Ltd; Radio NZ Ltd; Television NZ Ltd; • CRIs: AgResearch; Landcare Research/Manaaki Whenua; Plant & Food Research; Scion; Institute of Environmental Science and Research; GNS Science; NIWA; • Public Finance Act Schedule 4 entity: NZ Government Property Corporation; • Public Finance Act Schedule 4A company: Southern Response Earthquake Services Ltd; • Public Finance Act Schedule 5 companies: Genesis Energy Ltd; Mercury NZ Ltd; Meridian Energy Ltd; (this delegation is subject to specified exclusions, eg relating to the appointment and remuneration of directors, approval of major transactions, changes to the companies' constitutions, and requirements to pay a dividend or net surplus to the Crown); Policy work on overseas investment (excluding work on Build-to-Rent);

		Responsibilities, functions and powers of the Minister of Finance under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 (the Minister of Finance retains responsibility for those functions and powers that are unable to be delegated under the Act); Assistance with work related to monetary policy and on tax policy, especially as that work relates to commitments contained in the Coalition Agreement between the National Party and the ACT Party; Assistance with work relating to Budgets and fiscal management; Assistance with work on expenditure control; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Associate Minister of Finance	Hon Chris Bishop	Day-to-day responsibilities, functions and powers as a shareholder of the following Crown-owned companies: Crown Infrastructure Partners Ltd and Rau Paenga Ltd (this delegation is subject to specified exclusions, eg relating to the appointment and remuneration of directors, approval of major transactions, changes to the companies' constitutions, and requirements to pay a dividend or net surplus to the Crown);
		Responsibilities relating to proposals made by the Minister of Finance in relation to those appropriations in Vote Finance and any other Votes for which the Minister of Finance is responsible;
		Policy work on Build-to-Rent, including overseas investment aspects of this work;
		Assistance on work relating to infrastructure policy, funding, financing and delivery, including responsibility for any new infrastructure entity;
		Assistance on work relating to Budgets and fiscal management;
		Assistance with work on expenditure control;
		Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Associate Minister of Finance	Hon Shane Jones	Day-to-day responsibilities, functions and powers as a shareholder of the following Crown-owned companies and as the Minister of Finance relating to certain other entities:
		 Public Finance Act Schedule 4A companies: City Rail Link Ltd; Crown Regional Holdings Ltd; Education Payroll Ltd; Health Benefits Ltd; Kiwi Group Capital Ltd; Ngāpuhi Investment Fund Ltd; Predator Free 2050 Ltd; Research and Education Advanced Network New Zealand Ltd; Tāmaki Redevelopment Company Ltd; The Network for Learning Ltd;
		Other companies: AgriZero (Centre for Climate Action Joint Venture Ltd); Christchurch International Airport Ltd; Dunedin International Airport Ltd; Hawke's Bay Airport Ltd;
		Other entities: National Provident Fund; Government Superannuation Appeals Board; Crown Forestry Rental Trust;
		(this delegation is subject to specified exclusions, e.g. relating to the appointment and remuneration of directors, approval of major transactions, changes to the companies' constitutions, and requirements to pay a dividend or net surplus to the Crown);
		Policy responsibilities relating to community trusts and all responsibilities, functions and powers of the Minister of Finance under the Community Trusts Act 1999 and community trusts' trust deeds;
		Assistance with work relating to infrastructure policy, funding, financing and delivery;
		Assistance with work relating to Budgets and fiscal management;
		Assistance with work on expenditure control;
		Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Foreign Affairs Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs	Hon Todd McClay	Supporting the Minister of Foreign Affairs' leadership of key relationships in Africa, the Gulf, Latin America and North Asia; Providing strategic leadership for disarmament and arms control issues, including chairing the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC); Deputising for the Minister of Foreign Affairs as agreed on a case-by-case basis at internationally-focused events and meetings in New Zealand or abroad; Representing the Government in domestic engagement and outreach related to the above duties as agreed from time to time; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Health Associate Minister of Health	Hon David Seymour	 Functions and responsibilities of the Health portfolio relating to: Pharmac (the entity and its responsibilities, monitoring of Pharmac through the Ministry of Health, and implementation of any review recommendations); Medsafe; the Medicines Strategy; any proposed amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 relating to pseudoephedrine; appointments relating to Pharmac, Pharmacy Council, Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee, Medicines Assessment Advisory Committee, Medicines Classification Committee, Medicines Review Committee, Psychoactive Substances Expert Advisory Committee, and End of Life Choice Review Committee; all policy and any legislative work that may allow publicly funded drugs or medicines to be used in private medical facilities; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Associate Minister of Health	Hon Matt Doocey	Functions and responsibilities within the portfolio relating to: • rural health; • eating disorders; • nutrition and physical activity; • neurodiversity; • youth and rainbow health; Appointments to the following: • Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission; • Mental Health Review Tribunal; • Mental Health District Inspectors; • Substance Addiction District Inspectors; • Expert Advisory Committee on Drugs; • Psychologists Board; • Psychotherapists Board; • Radiation Safety Advisory Committee; • Dietitians Board; • National Ethics Advisory Committee; • Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology; • Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology; • Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology; • Northern A Health and Disability Ethics Committee; • Northern B Health and Disability Ethics Committee; • Central Health and Disability Ethics Committee; • Contral Health and Disability Ethics Committee; • Contral Health and Disability Ethics Committee; • Chinese Medicine Council;
		Responsibilities relating to standards that apply to medical practitioners and complaints processes, including appointments to the relevant bodies; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Associate Minister of Health	Hon Casey Costello	All matters within the Health portfolio relating to: Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990; vaping; smokeless tobacco; oral nicotine; Functions and responsibilities within the Health portfolio relating to: women's health (excluding cancer and cancer screening, perinatal and maternal mental health, workforce, and infrastructure); maternity health (including Plunket, but excluding perinatal and maternal mental health, workforce, and infrastructure); perinatal and maternal mortality; surgical mesh; sexual and reproductive health; the COVID-19 Inquiry; the Therapeutic Products Act 2023; emergency road and air services; family and sexual violence; surrogacy; dementia management; aged care; Appointments to the following: Paramedic Council; Chiropractic Board; Dental Council; Occupational Therapy Board; Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board; Osteopathic Council;

Housing	Hon Tama Potaka	Functions and responsibilities within the portfolio relating to:
Associate Minister of Housing		 Māori housing, including the housing aspects of Iwi-Crown Accords, Papakāinga and Māori community housing developments and other appropriate housing for whanau Māori, and lead Minister for the WAI2750 – Housing Policy and Services Kaupapa Inquiry (expenditure above \$20 million would require the joint approval of the Minister of Finance, Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Housing);
		 social housing, including social housing operational matters and day-to-day issues relating to Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities (the Minister of Housing retains responsibility for strategic oversight of Kāinga Ora, including board appointments and accountability documents, and Kāinga Ora's asset management programme);
		• relationship management with Community Housing Providers and Housing First providers;
		 emergency and transitional housing, including responsibility for Contracted Emergency Housing in Rotorua;
		 homelessness, including operational policy relating to Housing First, Rapid Rehousing and Sustaining Tenancies, and oversight of programmes to support people in acute housing need;
		housing for Pacific People;
		• tenancy and tenure matters, including responsibility for the Residential Tenancies Act 1986, the Retirement Villages Act 2003, and the Unit Titles Act 2010, and associated amendments and regulations (the Minister of Housing retains responsibility for Build to Rent);
		operational responsibility for the Temporary Accommodation Service;
		• the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, in particular responding to invitations to comment on housing matters where the Minister of Housing is identified as a relevant portfolio Minister for referral and substantive applications, and attending panel hearings for substantive applications as required;

Immigration Associate Minister of Immigration	Hon Chris Penk	Residence appeals referred by the Immigration and Protection Tribunal for consideration of the grant of residence as exceptions to government residence instructions;
		Requests for exceptions to government residence instructions;
		Requests for special directions made by an individual;
		Requests for exceptions to temporary entry class instructions;
		Requests for visas under section 61 of the Immigration Act 2009 from people who are not entitled to apply for a visa because they are in New Zealand unlawfully;
		Reconsideration of cases after court action;
		Requests for children born as a result of international surrogacy arrangements;
		Individual decisions on the deportation liability of a residence class visa holder;
		Requests under the Parole Act 2002 for early release for the purpose of deportation;
		Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
		(Within the above responsibilities, the Minister of Immigration retains responsibility for making decisions on whether a person constitutes a threat or risk to security (section 163 of the Immigration Act), cases involving classified information, and decisions relating to the immigration status of protected persons who may have committed certain crimes.)

Associate Minister of Immigration	Hon Casey Costello	Day-to-day responsibilities for policy and engagement relating to refugees, humanitarian migrants, and settlement support (with the Minister of Immigration retaining lead responsibility), including on matters relating to: • refugee support services;
		management of the refugee quota;
		the Refugee Family Support Category;
		the Community Organisation Refugee Sponsorship pilot and other complementary pathways for refugees;
		• the Refugee Resettlement Strategy and Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy;
		the response to Victoria Casey KC's review into the Restriction of Movement of Asylum Claimants;
		• the Special Ukraine Policy;
		• the New Zealand – Australia Refugee Resettlement Arrangement;
		• trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (with the Minister of Immigration retaining responsibility for decisions on a response to a mass arrival and addressing migrant exploitation).
Justice	Hon David Seymour	Functions and responsibilities within the Justice portfolio relating to the development and passage of the Treaty Principles Bill and associated policy.
Associate Minister of Justice		
Associate Minister of Justice	Hon Nicole McKee	The development and passage of the following proposed Bills, and associated policy and regulations: • Justice Systems Stewardship Amendment Bill; • Statutes Amendment Bill; • Court Timeliness (Jurisdiction of Community Magistrates) Legislation Bill; • Courts Improvement Bill;

		Responsibility for policy relating to: • firearms; • virtual participation (AVL) in court proceedings; • Three Strikes sentencing; • Surrogacy and adoption; • Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism Act 2009, including Ministerial exemptions under section 157 of that Act; • Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012; Responsibility for policy and the administration of the Criminal Proceeds
		(Recovery) Act 2009 and the Proceeds of Crime Fund; Responsibility for policy and administration relating to the building and maintenance of courthouses;
		Responsibility for the occupational regulation policy for the following matters: • pawnbrokers and second-hand dealers; • private investigators and security guards; • sex workers; • real estate agents;
		Appointments to, and monitoring of, the following Crown entities: • Public Trust; • Real Estate Agents Authority;
		Appointments to, and monitoring of, a number of specified tribunals and statutory bodies administered by the Ministry of Justice;
		Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Police Associate Minister of Police	Hon Casey Costello	Assistance with oversight, policy development and other matters relating to the cross-agency Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) Strategy and annual work plans under the Strategy;
		Assistance with oversight, policy development and other matters relating to the Resilience to Organised Crime in Communities (ROCC) work programme;

		Assistance with the proposed government investment of 500 additional constabulary staff, including matters related to recruitment and retention; All policy matters within the portfolio relating to deportees from Australia; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Regional Development Associate Minister for Regional Development	Hon Mark Patterson	Assisting the Minister for Regional Development in maintaining a strong relationship with rural communities, including the administration of the North Island Weather Events Primary Producer Finance Scheme as it relates to the Regional Development portfolio; Assisting the Minister in maintaining a strong relationship with the agricultural sector; Attending Regional Development events, meetings and other engagements, as requested by the Minister from time to time; Engaging with relevant Ministers, local communities and industry groups to understand areas of opportunity in the Regional Development portfolio; Providing assistance on work related to the Regional Infrastructure Fund as required; Representing the Regional Development portfolio at Ministerial Group meetings, as agreed from time to time; Day-to-day responsibilities, functions and powers of the Minister for Regional Development in relation to water infrastructure, and existing portfolio investments in forestry; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Social Development and Employment	Hon Penny Simmonds	All matters relating to the Training Incentive Allowance; All matters relating to the Youth Service;
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment		Responsibility for the New Zealand Carers' Strategy and associated action plans, including relationships with the New Zealand Carers' Alliance and other key stakeholders.

Sport and Recreation	Hon Chris Bishop	All matters within the Sport and Recreation portfolio relating to the oversight of:
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation		• the development of a Sport Diplomacy Strategy, to enhance collaboration between government agencies and improve engagement with New Zealand sports organisations to achieve international relations and business outcomes through sport;
		• the development of a National Facilities Strategy, to ensure that stadiums, significant sports facilities, and high-performance training centres meet needs;
		matters relating to major events.
Transport	Hon James Meager	All matters relating to:
Associate Minister of Transport		• the maritime sector, including maritime security, the making of rules and regulations, and oversight of Maritime New Zealand, including board appointments, but excluding issues relating to the safety and reliability of the Cook Strait connection and the procurement of the new Cook Strait ferries;
		recreational safety and search and rescue;
		• the purchase of the replacement vessel for the Chatham Islands;
		• matters relating to the Milford Aerodrome and the Crown's interest in joint venture airports;
		• day-to-day oversight of Crown agency relations in respect of the Transport Accident Investigation Commission, including appointments;
		• the provision of weather forecasting services (currently provided under contract by the MetService), in terms of the Meteorological Services Act 1990 and for transport policy work informing the weather forecasting review project;
		vehicle regulatory settings relating to Warrant of Fitness/Certificate of Fitness inspections, and new entry requirements for vehicles into New Zealand;

Responding to invitations to comment, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, on transport matters where the Minister of Transport is identified as a relevant portfolio Minister for referral and substantive applications, and attending panel hearings for substantive applications as required.

Providing general assistance in the portfolio, in particular assistance on transport matters relating to the South Island, including the Roads of National and Regional Significance work programmes, and in setting the strategic direction for the transport sector;

Engaging with the Minister and officials on Budget initiatives relevant to the above responsibilities;

Attending transport sector events on the Minister's behalf, as requested;

Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

[Matters relating to the aviation sector, including air service and alliance agreements, policy development and the making of aviation rules and regulations, and oversight of the performance of the Civil Aviation Authority, including board appointments, have been separately transferred to the Associate Minister of Transport.]

Portfolios with Parliamentary Under-Secretaries

Portfolio	Parliamentary Under- Secretary	Role / Responsibility
Infrastructure Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Infrastructure	Simon Court MP	Policy development on infrastructure funding and financing tools, including use of public private partnerships, value capture, road tolls, lease backs and other potential new tools; Commissioning policy issue papers on health and education infrastructure, with a focus on how to achieve greater efficiencies through better value for money, and better use of existing Crown assets; General assistance in the portfolio; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
Media and Communications Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Media and Communications	Jenny Marcroft MP	Assisting the Minister for Media and Communications on matters relating to: • rural connectivity and regional communications infrastructure; • radio broadcasting (excluding Radio New Zealand); • regional media; • workforce development; Assisting the Minister for Media and Communications with stakeholder engagement related to the above matters; General assistance in the portfolio; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

Oceans and Fisheries Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries	Jenny Marcroft MP	Representing New Zealand in international fisheries governance fora, such as the annual Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting and the Regional Fisheries Ministerial Meetings; Responsibility for New Zealand contributions to international initiatives and the domestic implementation of New Zealand's international obligations, as requested by the Minister from time to time; Engaging with domestic oceans and fisheries stakeholders, including fisheries industry representatives, iwi fisheries forums, and attending and providing portfolio representation at domestic stakeholder events, as requested by the Minister from time to time; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
RMA Reform Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform	Simon Court MP	 Assisting the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform: to design and deliver the RMA reform agenda, including through membership on the RMA Reform Ministerial Group; on matters relating to the development of new national direction policy on infrastructure policies, objectives and standards; on matters relating to the development of new national direction on offshore wind energy generation; Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.