DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

22 June 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0740

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

**Official Information Act request relating to briefings from April 2026**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 20 May 2026. You requested:

> *"Could I please request, under the Official Information Act, the following advice given to the Prime Minister in April 2026?*
> *[1]. Arrangements for ministerial reshuffle on Tuesday 7 April (2 Apr 2026)*
> *[2]. Technical note on NZCVS (13 Apr 2026)*
> *[3]. Updating Cabinet Committee Membership following the April 2026 Reshuffle (14 Apr 2026)*
> *[4]. Memo: Cabinet paper – update on the Government's response to the COVID-19 Royal Commission (24 Apr 2026)*
> *[5]. Health Target, Housing & Justice Dashboards – April 2026."*

For ease of reference, I have numbered your request.

**Information being released**

I have decided to release copies of the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

| Item | Date | Document description | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 April 2026 | Arrangements for ministerial reshuffle on Tuesday 7 April | Release, some information withheld under s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(f)(iv). |
| 2 | 13 April 2026 | Technical note on NZCVS | Release, some information withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i). |
| 3 | 17 April 2026 | Updating Cabinet Committee Membership following the April 2026 Reshuffle | Release, some information withheld under s9(2)(a). |
| 4 | 23 April 2026 | Memo: Cabinet paper – update on the Government's response to the COVID-19 Royal Commission | Release, some information withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i) |



Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand 6011
☎ 64 4 817 9698 www.dpmc.govt.nz

| Item | Date | Document description | Decision |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 30 April 2026 | Health Target, Housing & Justice Dashboards – April 2026 | Release, some information withheld under s9(2)(f)(iv) and s9(2)(g)(i). |

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Janine Smith
**Deputy Chief Executive**
**Policy Group and Delivery Unit**

ITEM 1

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL CHAMBERS

## Memo

2 April 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **To** | Prime Minister |
| **From** | Rachel Hayward |
| **Subject** | **Arrangements for ministerial reshuffle on Tuesday 7 April** |

### Purpose

1 You have announced a ministerial reshuffle that will take effect on Tuesday 7 April.

2 This memo briefs you on arrangements for the constitutional and ceremonial steps required to take place on Tuesday 7 April.

### Resignations, revocations and appointments

3 Before Cabinet on Tuesday morning the Governor-General, acting on your advice, will sign the documentation required to affect the following:

3.1 Resignation of Hon Collins KC and Hon Reti;

3.2 Revocation of the relevant ministerial portfolio warrants;

3.3 Appointment of Mr Butterick and Mr Brewer as Executive Councillors; and

3.4 Appointment of Ministers to the relevant portfolios.

4 This process will be done on the papers and your presence is not required.

5 Your signature is required on the advice sheets instructing the Governor-General to make the appointments. I will have the hardcopies for your signature on Tuesday morning.

6 Cabinet will proceed at 11am on Tuesday with the new ministerial arrangements in effect. A regular meeting of the Executive Council will follow at 1pm.

### Retention of the title "The Honourable"

7 When Ministers leave office, the Prime Minister can recommend that the Governor-General approve the retention of the title "The Honourable" for Members of the Executive Council under delegated authority from the Sovereign. The Prime Minister is under no obligation to make such a recommendation.

8 Hon Collins KC already holds the title having been granted it upon leaving office in 2014. It is therefore unnecessary to make another recommendation for her.

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9 We recommend you grant of the title for life to Hon Dr Reti. I will bring an advice sheet for the Governor-General and a letter to Hon Dr Reti advising him of this decision for your signature on Tuesday morning.

## Ceremony for new Executive Councillors

10 Section 23 of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957 requires new Executive Councillors to take the required oaths or affirmations at a meeting of the Executive Council soon after appointment.

11 A ceremonial meeting of the Executive Council will be held at 4pm at Government House for this purpose. The new Ministers will take their oaths or affirmations in front of the Governor-General, you and their invited family and supporters.

12 A script for the ceremony is attached. This explains your role in proceedings and how formalities will operate. At the conclusion of the ceremony there is an opportunity for you to make remarks. Your suggested remarks are highlighted in the script. I will have a copy of this for you at Government House on Tuesday.

13 I am available for a call any time over the weekend if you would like to discuss these arrangements.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet/Clerk of the Executive Council

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister

Date: / / 2026

**Distribution:**
Cameron Burrows, Chief of Staff
s9(2)(a) , Private Secretary

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

ITEM 2

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

# MEMORANDUM

## NZCVS Cycle 8 Data

| To: Joe Ascroft, PMO | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date** | 13/04/2026 | **From** | Delivery Unit |
| | | **Prepared by** | David Jagger, Manager Data and Insights |

### Purpose

1. This note provides DU's analysis of the latest NZCVS data relating to Target 4 (Reduced Violent Crime), following the publication of the NZCVS Cycle 8 results on 19 March 2026.
2. This is the annual NZCVS survey (year to October 2025) so there is a higher degree of confidence compared to quarterly results. Target 4 – Reduced Victims of Violent Crime is on track and performing well ahead of expectations.

### Summary

3. The NZCVS Cycle 8 public release shows 49,000 fewer victims of violent crime since 2023, but a stable total number of violent offences. The data tables show an increase in the number of sexual assault incidents since 2023 (see Appendix 1).
4. The release also states (for the broader 'interpersonal violence' category) that the decline in victims was mostly among one-off victims rather than victims experiencing multiple incidents.
5. DU have dug into the NZCVS trends for violent offences and have found:
   - **Victims** increased from 185k in 2023 (the Target 4 baseline) to 189k in 2024, and then dropped to 136k in 2025. Victims experiencing physical offences and sexual assault both dropped since 2024, but victims of sexual assault in 2025 are only slightly below 2023 numbers.
   - Since 2023, the number of one-time victims has decreased at a similar rate (-28%) to more highly victimised victims (2-3 incidents: -17%, 4+ incidents: -30%). There are fewer victims at every level of victimisation (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5+ incidents) in 2025 vs 2023.
   - However, the total number of violent offence **incidents** has stayed stable across 2023-2025 (421k, 413k, 407k in successive years). Within this, 2025 incidence of physical offences is lower than in 2023, but incidence of sexual assault is higher.
   - In the last year, the most highly victimised subset of the population (5+ violent offences) are estimated to be experiencing even higher levels of victimisation. This is what has kept the total number of incidents stable, despite fewer victims at each victimisation level vs 2024.

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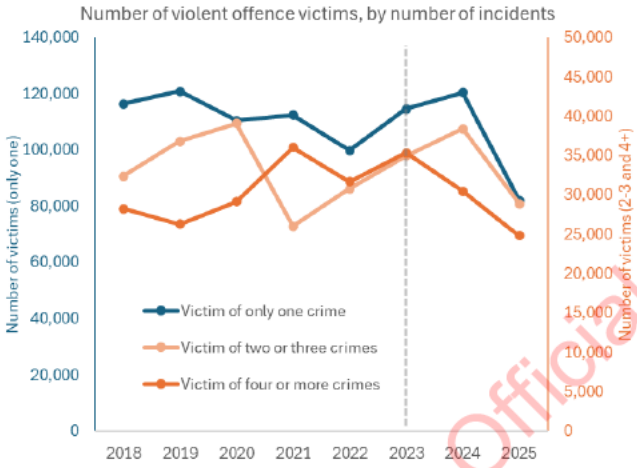
6. s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

## Analysis of NZCVS victim trends

7. s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted] The drop in victims of violent offences since Oct 2023 appears primarily due to a decrease in the number of victims who experienced one incident and had no injuries as a result. This implies that long-term reductions in violent offending are related to lower-risk forms of crime and a smaller sub-group of highly victimised individuals remains.

8. However, when looking at the two years since Target 4 baseline, it isn't true that the decline in victims is only amongst one-time victims. Between 2023 and 2025, there are comparable relative decreases in victims experiencing both low and high levels of victimisation.

*Figure 1 & Table 1: Comparable declines in victims of different levels of victimisation since 2023*




| | Number of incidents per victim | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | One | 2-3 | 4+ | All victims |
| **Number of victims** | | | | |
| 2023 | 115k | 35k | 35k | 185k |
| 2024 | 120k | 38k | 30.5k | 189k |
| 2025 | 82k | 29k | 25k | 136k |
| Change (volume) | | | | |
| 2024 to 2025 | -38k | -9k | -5.5k | -53k |
| 2023 to 2025 | -33k | -6k | -10k | -49k |
| Change (%) | | | | |
| 2024 to 2025 | -32% | -24% | -18% | -28% |
| **2023 to 2025** | **-28%** | **-17%** | **-28%** | **-26%** |

9. s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

10. s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted] s9(2)(g)(i)

## Analysis of NZCVS incidence trends

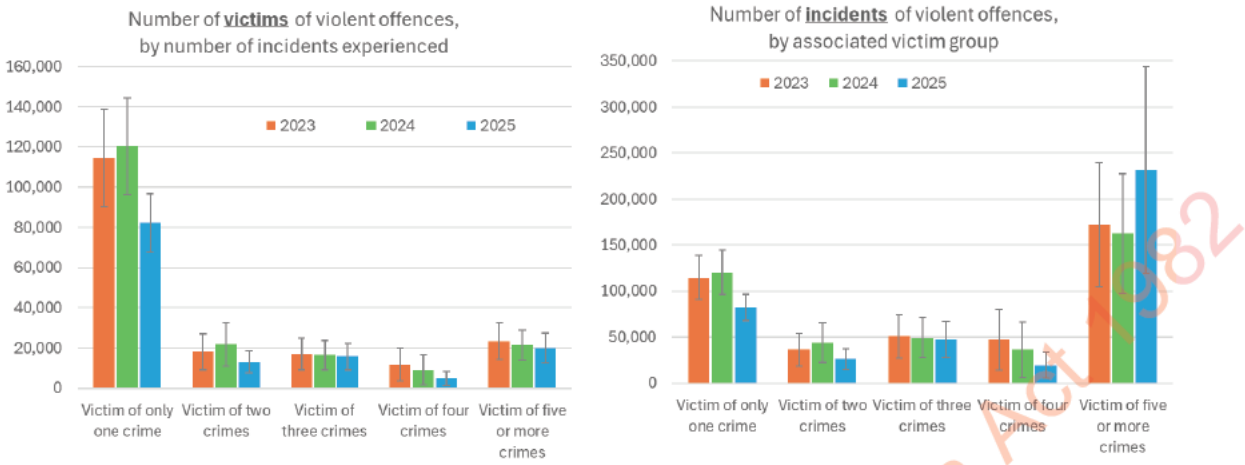
11. Total incidents stats suggest that the amount of violence experienced by victims in totality has not reduced. Care is needed when interpreting NZCVS incidence estimates for violent offences, with the total number of incidents underpinned by wide variation in the number of incidents experienced across the victim population.

12. Counterintuitive to the overall stable number of incidents between 2024 and 2025, there are fewer estimated victims of violent offences in every group by level of victimisation, i.e. fewer victims of 1 crime, fewer victims of 2 crimes, etc, up to fewer victims of 5 or more crimes.

13. While there are fewer incidents due to reduced numbers of 1-4 time victims, this has been almost entirely counteracted by the change in incidence for the 5+ crimes victims group. The 5+ group are estimated as slightly smaller in size (21k in 2024 down to 20k in 2025) but account for significantly more incidents (+69k to 231k in 2025, from 162k in 2024), an increase from 7.6 crimes on average up to 11.6.

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*Figure 2: Fewer highly victimised (5+ crimes) victims are accounting for significantly more total offences*




14. A small numbers of very highly victimised individuals can have an outsized impact on the overall incident rate[1]. s9(2)(g)(i)

15. Despite the uncertainty, the key interpretation is that, in the last year, a highly victimised subset of the population appears to be experiencing an even higher level of offending.

## Next steps

16. s9(2)(f)(iv)

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[1] Not shown in Figure 2 but the high total violent offence incidence estimate in 2022 (543k incidents, see Appendix 1) was also mainly driven by a spike in incidents among the 5+ crime victim group – potentially a Covid-19 impact but also indicates volatility.

## Appendix 1: Excerpts from NZCVS 2025 (Cycle 8) relevant to Target 4, released 19 March

**Source 1: Media release** https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/news-and-media/media-releases/new-survey-shows-drop-in-crime/

The proportion of adults who were victims of violent offences was significantly lower in 2025 (three percent) than in both 2024 and 2018 (four percent).

Today's results are for the whole of the NZCVS, while data released in February focused on violent crime. This showed there were 49,000 fewer victims of violent crime in the year to October 2025 than two years previously.

**Source 2: Key Results document – Summary section**

**Fewer victims of violent offending since 2018, but number of violent incidents remains flat**

In 2025, 5% of adults were victims of interpersonal violence, a significant drop from 7% in 2018. This was driven by decreases in both violent offences and threats and damage offences. The decline was mostly among one-off victims rather than repeat victims. As a result, there was no similar decrease in the number of incidents.

The proportion of adults experiencing violent offences (physical and sexual assault, and robbery) fell significantly to 3% in 2025, down from 4% in 2024 and 4% in 2018. The decrease was due to reductions in physical assaults and robbery.

**Source 3: Key Results document – Violent Offences section**

There were significant decreases in the overall violent offence prevalence rate between 2025 (3%) and 2024 (4%), and between 2025 and 2018 (4%). The physical offence prevalence rate significantly decreased between 2025 (2%) and 2018 (3%).

There were no significant difference in the overall violent offence incidence rate between 2025 and 2024 or between 2025 and 2018.

**Source 4: Key Results**

Table 11. Prevalence counts and rates for violent offences

| | | Year Estimate | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Offence Type** | | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| Physical offences | Rate | 2.9% | 3.0% | 2.8% | 2.5% | 2.2% | 2.7% | 2.5% | 1.7% ^ |
| | Count | 113 | 119 | 116 | 100 | 92 | 116 | 107 | 74 ^ |
| Sexual assault | Rate | 2.0% | 2.0% | 1.7% | 2.1% | 1.9% | 1.8% | 2.1% | 1.6% |
| | Count | 80 | 79 | 71 | 84 | 81 | 76 | 89 | 71 |
| **Violent offences** | **Rate** | **4.5%** | **4.6%** | **4.3%** | **4.4%** | **3.9%** | **4.4%** | **4.4%** | **3.1%+^** |
| | **Count** | **177** | **184** | **179** | **174** | **162** | **185** | **189** | **136+** |

All count values are in 1000s. Counts are number of adults

All prevalence rates are proportion of adults

^ sign indicates a significant difference between current year and base year (2018)

+ sign indicates a significant difference between current year and previous year

Table 12. Incidence counts and rates for violent offences

| | | Year Estimate | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Offence Type** | | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** | **2025** |
| Physical offences | Rate | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 6.1 | 5.6 | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| | Count | 234 | 219 | 233 | 209 | 253 | 235 | 196 | 194 |
| Sexual assault | Rate | 4.2 | 4.5 | 3.8 | 5.0 | 7.0 | 4.4 | 5.0 | 4.9 |
| | Count | 167 | 180 | 158 | 200 | 290 | 186 | 216 | 213 |
| **Violent offences** | **Rate** | **10.1** | **9.9** | **9.5** | **10.2** | **13.1** | **10.0** | **9.6** | **9.3** |
| | **Count** | **401** | **400** | **391** | **409** | **543** | **421** | **413** | **407** |

All count values are in 1000s. Counts are number of incidents

All incidence rates are number of incidents per 100 adults

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ITEM 3

# Cabinet Office

## Memo

14 April 2026

| | |
|---|---|
| **To** | Prime Minister |
| **From** | Diana Hawker |
| **Subject** | **Updating Cabinet Committee Membership following the April 2026 Reshuffle** |
| **Deadline** | Friday, 17 April 2026 |

1 This memo seeks your agreement to adjust Cabinet committee memberships following the Ministerial reshuffle that took effect on Tuesday, 7 April 2026.

2 Following their resignation as Ministers, Hon Judith Collins KC and Hon Dr Shane Reti have been removed from Cabinet and all Cabinet committees.

3 Following discussions with your office, we recommend changes to Cabinet committee membership as summarised below and detailed in **Appendix One.** The proposed changes reflect the changes in ministerial portfolios and responsibilities:

- 3.1 Hon Paul Goldsmith: added to APH;
- 3.2 Hon Louise Upston: becomes Chair of LEG;
- 3.3 Hon Mark Mitchell: added to CBC and appointed Deputy Chair of FPS;
- 3.4 Hon Todd McClay: added to CBC;
- 3.5 Hon Chris Penk: added to FPS, and removed from LEG;
- 3.6 Hon Penny Simmonds: added to EXP;
- 3.7 Hon Scott Simpson: added to LEG as Deputy Chair;
- 3.8 Hon Cameron Brewer: added to ECO and LEG;
- 3.9 Hon Mike Butterick: added to EXP and LEG.

4 Any agreed changes will be communicated immediately so that Ministerial diaries can be updated accordingly.

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## Recommendations

5 I recommend that you **agree** to the Cabinet committee membership changes as outlined above and in Appendix one, subject to any additional changes you wish to make.

**AGREE / DISAGREE / DISCUSS**

Diana Hawker
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister
Date: / /

**Distribution:**
Cameron Burrows, PMO
s9(2)(a) DPMC

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## Appendix One: Committee membership with suggested updates

### Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH)

To consider appointments to statutory and other government agencies, chief executive appointments, nominations for New Zealand Royal Honours, and associated policy.

#### Membership

**Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)**
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Erica Stanford
~~Hon Judith Collins KC~~
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon David Seymour (Deputy Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon James Meager

#### Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

#### Timing

Meets in the first and third (where applicable) week of each Parliamentary sitting block.

### Cabinet Business Committee (CBC)

To consider policy issues, appointments, bills, and legislation, and other matters that require decisions before the next scheduled applicable Cabinet committee meeting, when other committees are not meeting and the House of Representatives is adjourned. CBC meets only on a strictly if required basis.

#### Membership

**Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)**
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon David Seymour (Deputy Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
~~Hon Judith Collins KC~~
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Todd McClay

#### Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

#### Timing

Meets in recess weeks, if required

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO)

To consider policy relating to New Zealand's economy, including small business, agriculture, trade, environment, climate change, and workplace relations matters.

### Membership

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop *(Deputy Chair)*
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer
Jenny Marcroft, MP

Hon David Seymour
**Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)**
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
~~Hon Dr Shane Reti~~
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Simon Court, MP

### Relevant Portfolios

ACC
Agriculture
Auckland
Biosecurity
Building and Construction
Climate Change
Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Conservation
Customs
Public Service and Digitising Government
Economic Growth
Emergency Management and Recovery
Energy
Environment
Finance
Food Safety
Forestry
Housing
Hunting and Fishing
Immigration
Infrastructure
Internal Affairs
Local Government

Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Māori Development
Media and Communications
Oceans and Fisheries
Racing
Regional Development
Resources
Revenue
RMA Reform
Rural Communities
Science, Innovation and Technology
Small Business and Manufacturing
Social Development and Employment
South Island
Space
State Owned Enterprises
Statistics
Tertiary Education
Tourism and Hospitality
Trade and Investment
Transport
~~Universities~~
~~Vocational Education~~
Workplace Relations and Safety

### Timing

Meets weekly in sitting weeks.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP)

To:

- review significant expenditure, investment, and procurement proposals, including those with implications for the Budget.
- consider significant regulatory processes, systems, and proposals.
- consider strategic and policy matters relating to the public sector and government administration.

EXP will consider the outcomes of significant expenditure review and regulatory review programmes. Business as usual expenditure and regulatory issues will be considered at other relevant Cabinet committees.

### Membership

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Mark Patterson

**Hon David Seymour (Chair)**
Hon Nicola Willis *(Deputy Chair)*
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
~~Hon Judith Collins KC~~
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Mike Butterick

### Relevant Portfolios

Corrections
Defence
~~Digitising Government~~
Education
Finance
Health
Infrastructure
Internal Affairs
Land Information
Local Government
Police
Public Service and Digitising Government
Regulation
Revenue
RMA Reform
Social Development and Employment
Transport

### Timing

Meets in the first and third (where applicable) week of each Parliamentary sitting block.

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## Cabinet Foreign Policy and National Security Committee (FPS)

- To consider matters relating to foreign policy and external relations.
- Oversight of the national security and intelligence sector, and to consider policy and legislative proposals relating to the sector, to significant hazards, and to defence (excluding defence procurement).
- To co-ordinate and direct national responses to major crises or circumstances affecting national security (either domestic or international).

*FPS, or a subcommittee as determined by the Prime Minister, will have Power to Act where the need for urgent action and/or operational or security considerations require it.*

### Membership

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
**Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)**
~~Hon Judith Collins KC *(Deputy Chair)*~~
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Chris Penk
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Mark Mitchell *(Deputy Chair)*
Hon Nicola Grigg

### Relevant Portfolios

Biosecurity
Climate Change
Customs
Defence
Emergency Management and Recovery
Foreign Affairs
GCSB and NZSIS
Health
Immigration
National Security and Intelligence
~~NZSIS~~
Police
Trade and Investment

### Timing

Meets monthly, or as required.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG)

To consider the legislation programme, draft Bills and secondary legislation, and government responses to petitions, select committee reports, and Law Commission reports. LEG may also consider minor policy issues relating to these matters.

*Government responses to significant select committee reports and Law Commission reports should be dealt with at a policy committee if they involve significant new policy or amendments to existing policy.*

### Membership

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Shane Jones
**Hon Louise Upston (Chair)**
~~Hon Judith Collins KC~~
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Casey Costello
~~Hon Chris Penk~~
Hon Scott Simpson *(Deputy Chair)*
Hon Cameron Brewer
Stuart Smith, MP (Senior National Whip)
Jamie Arbuckle, MP (New Zealand First Whip)

Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop ~~(Chair)~~
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Paul Goldsmith
~~Hon Dr Shane Reti~~
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon James Meager
Hon Mike Butterick
Todd Stephenson, MP (ACT Whip)

### Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

### Timing

Meets weekly in sitting weeks.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU)

To consider matters relating to improving social outcomes, including healthcare, social housing access, and law and order.

### Membership

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Erica Stanford
**Hon Louise Upston (Chair)**
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown *(Deputy Chair)*
Hon Paul Goldsmith
~~Hon Dr Shane Reti~~
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Scott Simpson

### Relevant Portfolios

ACC
Arts, Culture and Heritage
Child Poverty Reduction
Children
Community and Voluntary Sector
Corrections
Courts
Disability Issues
Education
Ethnic Communities
Health
Housing
Justice
Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Māori Development
Mental Health
Pacific Peoples
Police
Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence
Rural Communities
Seniors
Social Development and Employment
Social Investment
Sport and Recreation
Tertiary Education
Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
~~Universities~~
Veterans
~~Vocational Education~~
Whānau Ora
Women
Youth

### Timing

Meets weekly in sitting weeks.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Cabinet Strategy Committee (STR)

To:

- consider overall Government priorities and strategic issues;
- monitor the delivery and implementation of the Government's work programme;
- consider significant issues and policy areas as determined by the Prime Minister or Cabinet. Detailed policy development and implementation aspects of these issues will be considered by the relevant policy committee once the strategic direction has been set.

### Membership

**Rt Hon Christopher Luxon (Chair)**
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
~~Hon Dr Shane Reti~~
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon David Seymour (*Deputy Chair*)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Louise Upston
~~Hon Judith Collins KC~~
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka

### Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

### Timing

Meets monthly.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Appendix Two: Committee membership comparison tables

| | APH | CBC | ECO | EXP | FPS | LEG | SOU | STR | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cabinet** | | | | | | | | | |
| Rt Hon Christopher Luxon | CHAIR | CHAIR | √ | √ | √ | √ | √ | CHAIR | **8** |
| Hon David Seymour | Deputy | Deputy | √ | CHAIR | √ | √ | √ | Deputy | **8** |
| Rt Hon Winston Peters | √ | √ | √ | √ | CHAIR | √ | √ | √ | **8** |
| Hon Nicola Willis | √ | √ | CHAIR | Deputy | √ | | √ | √ | **7** |
| Hon Chris Bishop | √ | √ | Deputy | √ | | √ | √ | √ | **7** |
| Hon Brooke van Velden | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ | | √ | **6** |
| Hon Shane Jones | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ | | √ | **6** |
| Hon Simeon Brown | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | Deputy | √ | **6** |
| Hon Erica Stanford | √ | √ | √ | √ | | | √ | √ | **6** |
| Hon Paul Goldsmith | √ | √ | √ | √ | | √ | √ | √ | **7** |
| Hon Louise Upston | √ | √ | √ | √ | | CHAIR | CHAIR | √ | **7** |
| Hon Mark Mitchell | | √ | | √ | √ | | √ | √ | **5** |
| Hon Todd McClay | | √ | √ | | Deputy | | | √ | **4** |
| Hon Tama Potaka | √ | | √ | | | √ | √ | √ | **5** |
| Hon Matt Doocey | √ | | | | | | √ | | **2** |
| Hon Nicole McKee | | | | | | √ | √ | | **2** |
| Hon Casey Costello | | | | √ | | √ | √ | | **3** |
| Hon Simon Watts | | | √ | √ | | √ | | | **3** |
| Hon Chris Penk | | | √ | √ | √ | | | | **3** |
| Hon Penny Simmonds | | | √ | √ | | | √ | | **3** |

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| | APH | CBC | ECO | EXP | FPS | LEG | SOU | STR | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Ministers Outside Cabinet** | | | | | | | | | |
| Hon Nicola Grigg | √ | | √ | | √ | | √ | | **4** |
| Hon Scott Simpson | | | √ | | | Deputy | √ | | **3** |
| Hon James Meager | √ | | √ | | | √ | | | **3** |
| Hon Cameron Brewer | | | √ | | | √ | | | **2** |
| Hon Mike Butterick | | | | √ | | √ | | | **2** |
| Hon Andrew Hoggard | | | √ | √ | | | | | **2** |
| Hon Karen Chhour | √ | | | | | | √ | | **2** |
| Hon Mark Patterson | | | √ | √ | | | | | **2** |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| **Parliamentary Under-Secretaries** | | | | | | | | | |
| Simon Court, MP | | | √ | | | | | | **1** |
| Jenny Marcroft, MP | | | √ | | | | | | **1** |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| **Chief Whips** | | | | | | | | | |
| Stuart Smith, MP | | | | | | √ | | | **1** |
| Todd Stephenson, MP | | | | | | √ | | | **1** |
| Jamie Arbuckle, MP | | | | | | √ | | | **1** |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total members** | **16** | **13** | **24** | **19** | **8** | **19** | **18** | **14** | |

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

# Memo: Cabinet paper - update on the Government's response to the COVID-19 Royal Commission

| To: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date:** | 23/04/2026 | **Priority level:** | Routine |

## Purpose

1. To support your consideration of the *Lessons learned from the COVID-19 response: update on the Government's response to the Royal Commission* Cabinet paper ahead of discussion at the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) meeting on 4 May.

## Key points

2. The Cabinet paper advises CBC Ministers on the Government response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 and initial positioning on each of the Inquiry's individual recommendations. The Minister of Health will return to Cabinet in July with a draft Government response for consideration.
3. DPMC is leading response to 7 of the 63 recommendations and will support agencies to respond to others. Our initial positions on these recommendations are summarised at **Annex A**, and reflect work progressing under the DPMC-led National Risk and Resilience Framework as well as recent changes made to strengthen National Resilience System structures, arrangements and accountabilities.
4. We have no substantive comments on the Cabinet paper or the initial positions formed by agencies related to their recommendations. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

*Developing Government's proposed response for Cabinet consideration in July*

5. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
6. [redacted]

**Julian Grey**
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive**
**National Security and Resilience Group**

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s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)



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ITEM 5

DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

# Memo: Health Target, Justice and Housing Dashboards – April 2026

| To: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Date:** | 30/04/2026 | **Priority level:** | Routine |

## Purpose

1. To provide you with the latest Health Target, Justice and Housing dashboards (refer Attachment A).

## Summary

2. Key insights from the **Health Target** dashboard (from latest unvalidated operational data) are:

s9(2)(f)(iv)

3. Key insights from the **Justice Sector** quarterly dashboard are:
   - The proportion of convicted people sentenced to imprisonment is at an all-time high (15% in 2025) and prison capacity remains a significant issue. Prison population grew 5% in y/e March 2026, driven by the sentenced population (+11%) with the remand population in decline (-2%).
   - Criminal District Court timeliness continues to improve – the backlog reduced 19% in y/e March 2026 and the proportion of cases disposed within timeliness thresholds rose from 81% to 84%.
   - Methamphetamine levels in wastewater +10% in y/e Feb 2026, to highest levels since late 2024.
4. Key insights from the **Housing** quarterly dashboard are:
   - Building intentions rose slightly in recent months (37,500 annual consents in y/e Feb 2026) but construction activity is expected to remain subdued, with high input costs and weak demand.
   - Home ownership affordability has improved in y/e Dec 2025, with incomes growing slowly while house prices remain flat, and the number of first home buyers continues to grow steadily.
   - Social Housing places increased by 2% (+1,515 to 87,773) in y/e March 2026, with utilisation of KO homes also continuing to improve (2.2% unoccupied at end March, down from 3.7% a year ago). However, Housing Register applicants are up 2% across the same period (+393 to 19,701).
5. Your next briefing will provide the latest Economic dashboard, due to you on 21 May.

**David Jagger**
**Data and Insights Manager, Delivery Unit**

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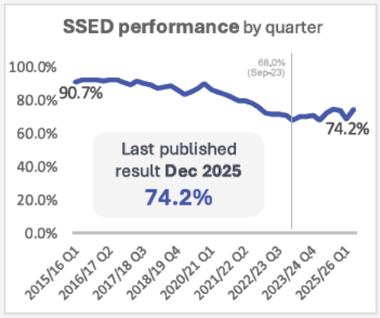
# Minister of Health | **Weekly Health Target Dashboard**

Week to 19 Apr 2026

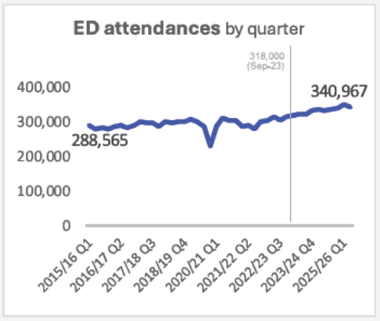
Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

## Shorter stays in ED

s9(2)(f)(iv)

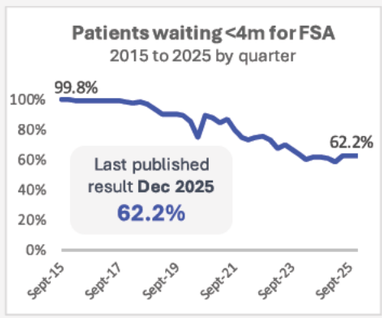



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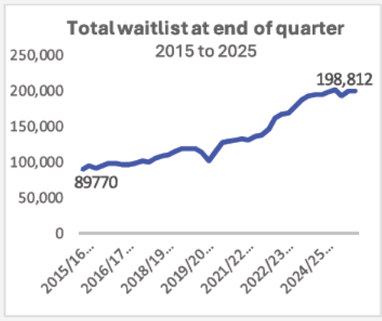


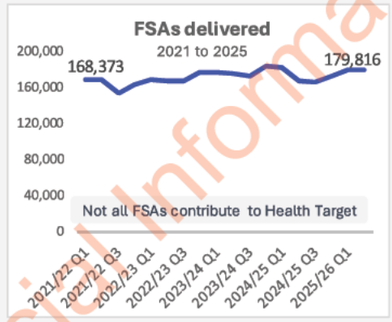

## Shorter wait times for first specialist assessment (FSA)

s9(2)(f)(iv)



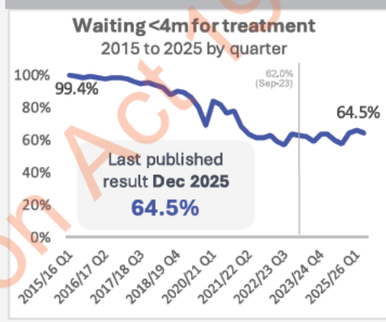

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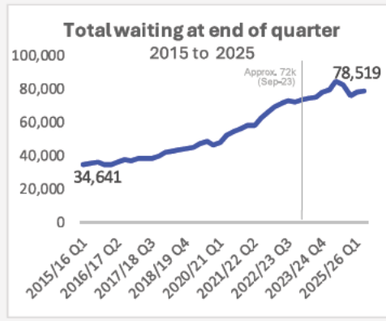



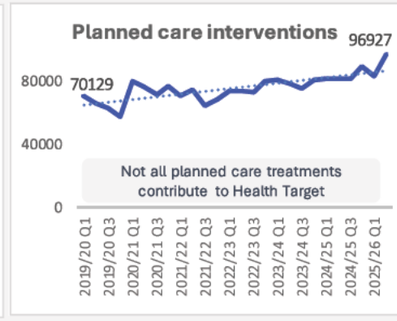

## Shorter wait times for elective treatment

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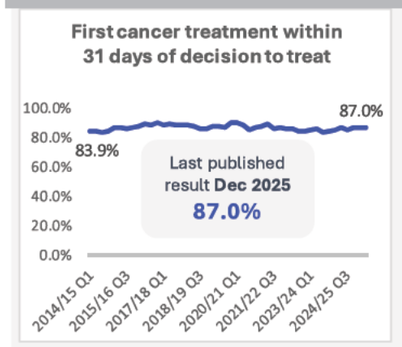

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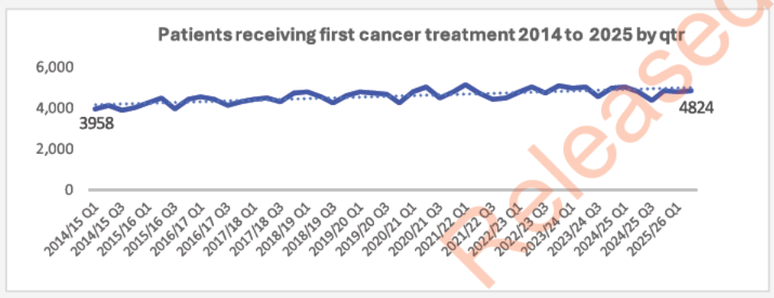




## Faster cancer treatment within 31 days

s9(2)(f)(iv)




s9(2)(f)(iv)




## Immunisation coverage at 24 months

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

## Activity and Efficiency

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Unvalidated, up-to-date operational data

Validated data from National Collections

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# **Accompanying notes** | Health Target Weekly Dashboard Page 2

## Shorter stays in emergency departments (SSED)

**SSED:** This metric is telling you the proportion of patients who were admitted (eg to a hospital inpatient ward), discharged (eg having been treated within the ED itself), or transferred (eg to another hospital for specialist surgery) from an ED within 6 hours.

The validated data (source: NNPAC National Collection) is presented from Q1 of FY 2015/16 to the latest published quarter. The unvalidated operational data (source: Rapid national automation dataset (Rapid) for ED) is presented for the last 12 weeks to the week ending 19 April 2026 (ie starting November 2024).

**ED attendances:** This metric is telling you the number of patients who attended ED (ie patients who presented to ED and waited to be seen).

Please note – the denominator for SSED is ED attendances, rather than ED presentations (ie it excludes people who present to ED but do not wait to be seen, or are diverted elsewhere eg to urgent care).

The validated data (source: NNPAC) is presented from Q1 of FY 2015/16 to the latest published quarter. The unvalidated operational data (source: Rapid) is presented for the last 12 weeks to the week ending 19 April 2026.

## Shorter wait times for first specialist assessment (FSA)

**Patients waiting <4 months for FSA:** This metric is telling you the proportion of patients who wait less than four months for an FSA from the date of referral.

The validated data (source: NBRS National Collection) is presented from Q1 of FY 2014/15 to the latest published quarter). The unvalidated operational data (source: Rapid) is presented for the last 16 weeks to the week ending 29 March 2026 (ie starting October 2024).

**Total waitlist at end of quarter:** This metric is telling you the total number of patients on the FSA waitlist at the end of each quarter.

The validated data (source: NBRS) is presented from Q1 of FY 2015/16 to the latest published quarter.

**FSAs delivered:** This metric is telling you the total number of FSAs delivered each quarter (source: NNPAC).

Please note – not all FSAs contribute to the Health Target (eg Maternity FSAs are excluded).

The validated data (source: NNPAC) is presented from Q1 of FY 2021/22 to the latest published quarter.

## Shorter wait times for elective treatment

**Patients waiting <4 months for elective treatment:** This metric is telling you the proportion of people given a commitment to treatment who have been waiting less than four months as a proportion of all people waiting for elective treatment at the end of the period.

The validated data (source: NBRS) is presented from Q1 of FY 2014/15 to the latest published quarter. The unvalidated operational data (source: Rapid) is presented for the last 16 weeks to the week ending 29 March 2026 (ie starting October 2024).

**Total waitlist at end of quarter:** This metric is telling you the total number of patients on the elective treatment waitlist at the end of each quarter. The validated data (source: NBRS) is presented from Q1 of FY 2014/15 to the latest published quarter.

**Planned care interventions:** This metric is telling you the total number of planned care interventions (ie elective treatments) completed each quarter.

Please note – not all interventions contribute to the Health Target (eg colonoscopies are excluded).

The validated data (source: NMDS and NNPAC National Collections) is presented from Q2 of FY 2019/20 to the latest published quarter.

## First cancer treatment within 31 days

**First cancer treatment within 31 days of decision to treat:** This metric is telling you the proportion of eligible cancer patients who received their first treatment within 31 days of a health professional's decision to treat them.

The validated data (source: National Collection for FCT) is presented from Q1 of FY 2014/15 to the latest published quarter.

**Patients receiving first cancer treatment:** This metric is telling you the number of patients who commenced their first cancer treatment each quarter.

The validated data (source: National Collection for FCT) is presented from Q1 of FY 2014/15 to the latest published quarter. Preliminary unvalidated data is also sourced from the National Collection for FCT but has not yet been subject to the quarterly data validation process.

## Immunisation coverage at 24 months

**Children fully immunised at 24 months:** This metric is telling you the percentage of children who have all their scheduled vaccinations by the time they are two years old.

**Children not fully immunised at 24 months:** This metric is telling you the percentage of children who have not had all their scheduled vaccinations by the time they are two years old.

**Vaccine doses delivered:** This metric is telling you the number of vaccine doses delivered for children aged less than 24 months per weekly for DTaP-IPV (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio) DTaP-IPV-HepB-Hib (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type B, and hepatitis B), Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type B), MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and PCV13 (pneumococcal disease).

The validated data (source: AIR Aotearoa Immunisation Register).

## Operational Efficiency Measures

**Case-weighted Discharges:** Case-weights are hospital discharges multiplied by a relative weighting depending on patient and case complexity. Data source: NMDS for known case-weights, Rapid is used to report patients that have been seen but have not yet been coded for a case-weight – hence this is an estimation.

**Outsourced Elective Cases**: Shows 1. the number of cases sent to private providers for elective treatment and 2. the number of elective procedures for surgical specialties completed in private facilities. Note: Data is offset by 3 weeks to give providers time to send invoice to district, and for district to enter in their system. Outsourcing numbers for week may not be complete yet. Source: Rapid Inpatients.

**Patients waiting in ED >24 hours:** This metric will tell you the number of people that wait over 24 hours in an ED before being admitted, discharged, or transferred. Source: Rapid ED.

**Theatre Utilisation:** This metric will tell you the total time theatres are occupied by a patient (excluding turnaround time) as a percentage of the planned elective session time (ie the extent which the surgical session is utilised). Source: Rapid Theatre Events.

**Note:** Rapid is not subject to robust data validation processes



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# Regional and District Health Target performance

Dashboard shows most up-to-date data available. Note varying date ranges under each title. Operational data source (Rapid) used for first three measures.

**Q2 2025/26 results – to be published March:** ■ met quarterly milestone

| | SSED (milestone 77%) | FSA (milestone 65%) | Treatment (milestone 70%) | FCT (milestone 87%) | Imms at 24m (milestone 87%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **National** | **74.2%** | **62.2%** | **64.5%** | **87.0%** | **82.9%** |
| Northern | **73.8%** | **64.6%** | **62.1%** | **86.1%** | **83.1%** |
| Te Manawa Taki | **74.2%** | **62.1%** | **69.6%** | **93.5%** | **75.4%** |
| Central | **67.4%** | **65.2%** | **71.5%** | **87.4%** | **85.5%** |
| Te Waipounamu | **79.6%** | **55.5%** | **59.2%** | **82.6%** | **88.2%** |

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# Justice Sector Dashboard

April 2026

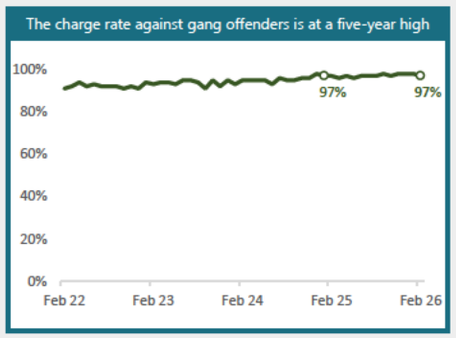
SECTOR INSIGHTS

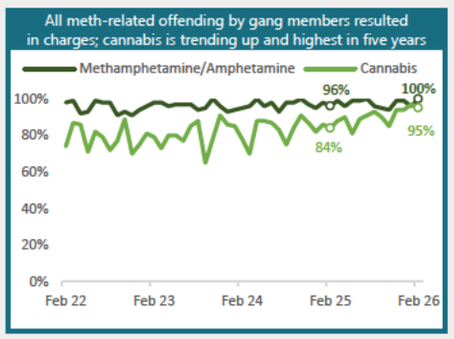
MINISTRY OF JUSTICE
Tāhū o te Ture

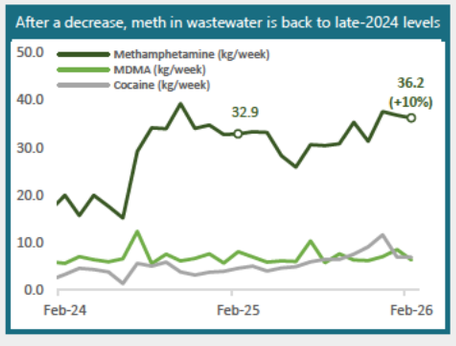
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## CRIME

### Wastewater tests show highest methamphetamine levels since late 2024



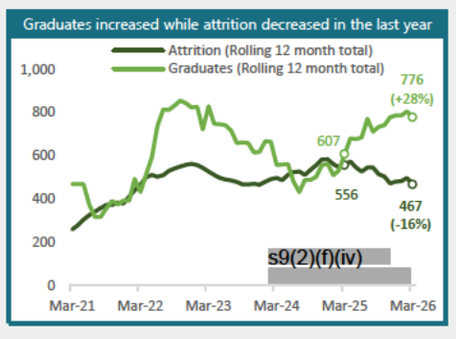

**Focus on fuel-related crime: with increasing fuel prices, fuel drive-offs and burglaries increased**

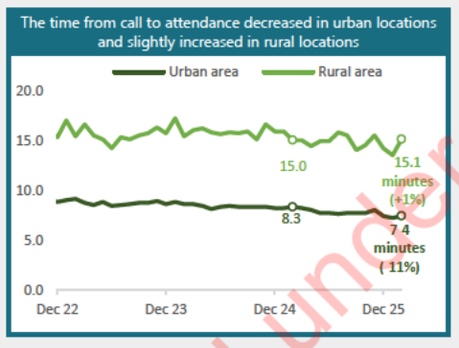
- On average, in April there have been 100 more petrol-drive offs reported to Police each week since the week ending 1 March 2026; representing an approximate 28% increase.
- Diesel burglary offences also showed an upward trend, increasing from 20 offences per week in early March to around 50 offences per week in mid-April.
- Alongside the increased frequency, the impact is high with large-scale diesel burglaries (over 1,000L), targeting commercial sites and showing a level of planning and repeat targeting.
- Commercial site and opportunistic fuel theft from unattended vehicles is likely to increase with ongoing pressure on fuel costs. This will be continuously monitored.

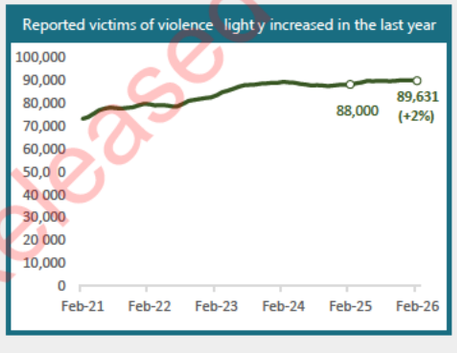
## POLICE

### Police graduates and constables increased while attrition decreased



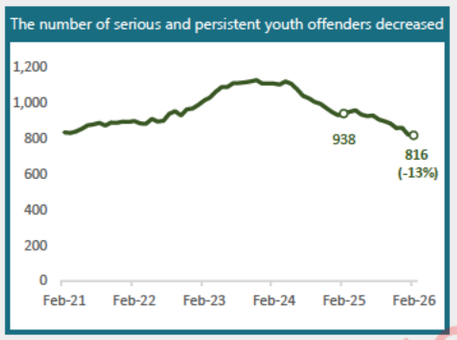



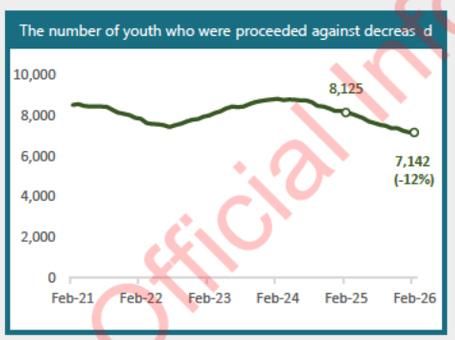



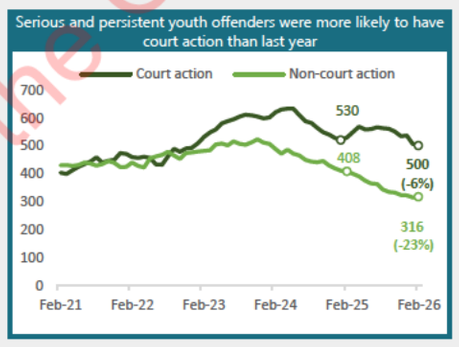



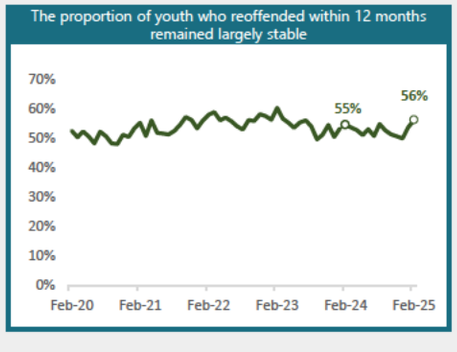

## YOUTH

### The number of serious and persistent youth offenders further decreased



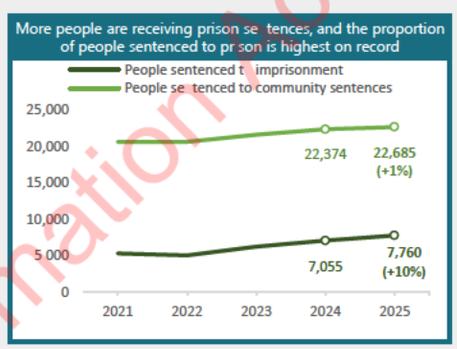



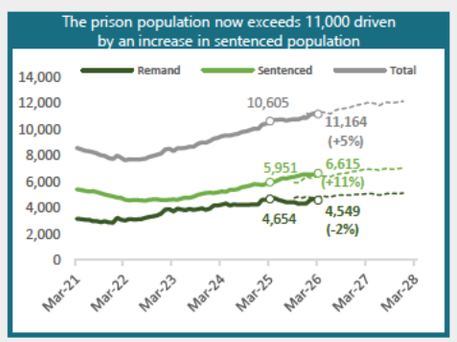



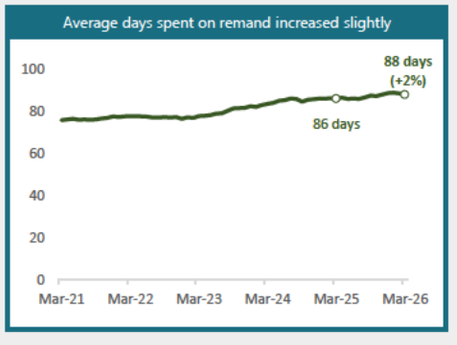




## SENTENCING

### Prison capacity remains a significant issue as more people receive imprisonment sentences



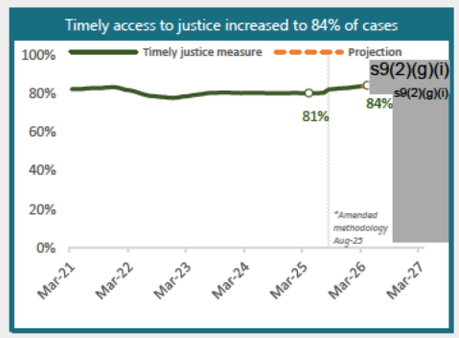



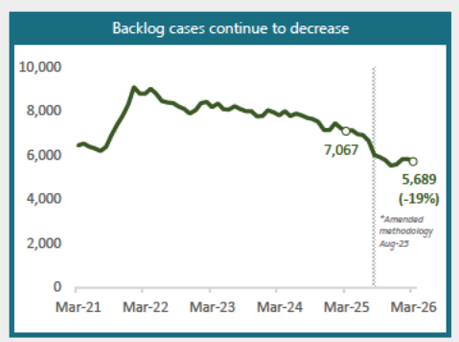



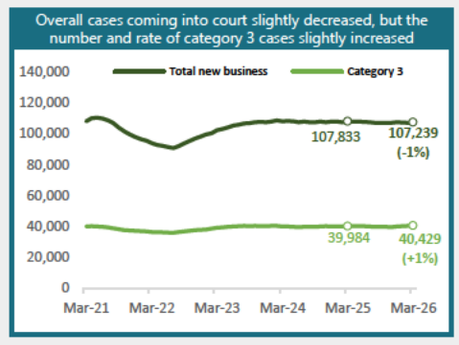

- Prison population is at historically high levels. Capacity remains a significant issue as more people receive imprisonment sentences.
- The number and rate of people sentenced to imprisonment are both at an all time high. 15% of those convicted received a prison sentence.
- The increase in prison population was driven by an increase in people sentenced, while the size and proportion of remand population decreased (from 44% to 41%).
- The sentenced population is expected to further increase following government policy such as (Reinstating Three Strikes) Amendment Act 2024 and Sentencing (Reform) Amendment Act 2025.

## TIMELY JUSTICE

### Timely access to justice continues to improve despite more category 3 cases




- Category 3 cases most notably increased in the last quarter and are projected to further grow due to new policy settings and increased frontline police.
- Timely justice initiatives continue to deliver performance improvements, but more category 3 cases adds challenges.
- Audio visual capability in courts is unchanged since October 2025. As of April 2026, 94% of courtrooms and hearing rooms (322 out of 340) have at least audio capability, 46% (148) of those have fixed audio-visual capability. There are 139 mobile audio-visual trolleys available.
- Currently only three low-volume court locations do not have any audio or audio-visual technology installed.

(+/-%) Proportional change compared to the same time one year ago

# Justice Sector Dashboard – Accompanying Notes

April 2026

SECTOR INSIGHTS

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE Tāhū o te Ture

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## CRIME

### Wastewater tests show highest methamphetamine levels since late 2024

**The charge rate against gang offenders is at a five-year high**

**Gangs prosecution rate**
*Source: Police*
The National Gang List includes all people that were Alive, Validated, and Current Patched or Prospect/Probate Members of a New Zealand Adult Gang, as of 14 April 2026. "Charge Rate" is the percentage of all RCOS proceedings where court action was taken. Note, this differs to RCOS proceedings on policedata.nz and in Police's official statistics which count each separate occasion when Police deal with an alleged offender for the most serious offence being proceeded against.

**All meth-related offending by gang members resulted in charges; cannabis is trending up and highest in five years**

**Methamphetamine/amphetamine and cannabis charge rate against NGL members**
*Source: Police*
The National Gang List includes all people that were Alive, Validated, and Current Patched or Prospect/Probate Members of a New Zealand Adult Gang, as of 14 April 2026. "Charge Rate" is the percentage of all RCOS cannabis or methamphetamine (includes amphetamine) proceedings where court action was taken, and includes any action involving the drug including possession, use and distribution. This differs to RCOS proceedings on policedata.nz and in Police's official statistics which count each separate occasion when Police deal with an alleged offender for the most serious offence being proceeded against.

**After a decrease, meth in wastewater is back to late-2024 levels**

**Estimated weekly drug use across all Wastewater testing sites (kg per week)**
*Source: Police*
This testing programme includes 63 testing locations and covers 76% of the total population. Several new sites added near the end of 2023 and into 2024.
The estimated total amount consumed is calculated from the concentration of each drug biomarker detected in the wastewater. This is only reflective of the pure drug being consumed and does not include cutting agents and binders.

**Diesel burglary occurrences**
This relates to burglary occurrences where the narrative references "diesel" as there is no specific offence code for fuel theft. It has a 88% true positive rate and unknown false negative rate. This measure is used to identify trends over time. Precise percentage changes should be interpreted with caution.

**Petrol drive offs**
A small number of these offences are theft of other items at petrol stations rather than fuel theft.

## POLICE

### Police graduates and constables increased while attrition decreased

**The number of constables continues to increase**

**Number of Constabulary Police**
*Source: Police*
This represents Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Constables in all roles across Police. Recruits under training, Authorised Officers and Police Employees are not included.

The baseline figure was 10,211 FTE in November 2023, with a target of 500 more (to 10,711 FTE) by June 2026.

Police FTE numbers are as of 31 March 2026.

**Graduates increased while attrition decreased in the last year**

**Attrition and Graduates of Police**
*Source: Police*
Attrition represents the number of FTE constables leaving Police. Attrition rate is based on the total attrition numbers divided by the average FTE numbers for each period. Graduates represent the number of people completing initial training at the Royal New Zealand Police College (including Auckland based recruits). These numbers are both presented as rolling 12-month totals.

**The time from call to attendance decreased in urban locations and slightly increased in rural locations**

**Median Response Time (Minutes) to Emergency Police Events**
*Source: Police*
This represents the number of emergency (Priority 1, events where median attendance targets are set at 10 mins urban / 20 mins rural) and non-emergency (Priority 2/3 & 5) events Police responded to and managed within Police Computer Aided Dispatch system (CAD)
Demand reported via 105 and 105 Online and not escalated to CAD for dispatched response (ie physical police attendance) is not counted.

**Reported victims of violence slightly increased in the last year**

**Number of victims of violence**
*Source: Recorded Crime Victim Statistics (RCVS)*
This counts the number of victims reported and not the number of victimisations. It is also does not represent everyone who experiences crime, only victims who reported to Police. This excludes organisations.
This data is a rolling 12 month measure meaning each month count victimisations that were reported in the previous 12 months.

## YOUTH

### The number of serious and persistent youth offenders further decreased

**The number of serious and persistent youth offenders decreased**

**Number of Serious and Persistent Youth Offender**
*Source: Oranga Tamariki*
Government Target 3 numbers produced by Oranga Tamariki from Police data (Recorded Crime Offender Statistics). RCOS data is operational in nature, so previously reported numbers can change during monthly updates. Serious and persistent is defined as "committing three or more distinct offending events within 12 months where at least one of those offences committed has a maximum penalty greater than or equal to seven years imprisonment."

**The number of youth who were proceeded against decreased**

**Number of proceedings against youth**
*Source: Ministry of Justice using Recorded Crime Offender Statistics (RCOS) from Police*
Youth are defined as 10 –17 years old Youth offending is counted when Police take action (proceed) against a child or young person. Police action includes warnings, alternative actions, youth justice family group conferences (FGCs), and prosecution in the Youth Court (court action). This measure aligns with SPYO reporting and measures youth who offended in the 12 months prior to reporting date, this differs to data published by Police.

**Serious and persistent youth offenders were more likely to have court action than last year**

**Number of Serious and Persistent Youth Offenders by proceeding method**
*Source: Oranga Tamariki*
Government Target 3 numbers produced by Oranga Tamariki from Police data (Recorded Crime Offender Statistics). RCOS data is operational in nature, so previously reported numbers can change during monthly updates. Serious and persistent is defined as "committing three or more distinct offending events within 12 months where at least one of those offences committed has a maximum penalty greater than or equal to seven years imprisonment."

**The proportion of youth who reoffended within 12 months remained largely stable**

**Number of youth offenders who reoffended within 12 months**
*Source: Police*
This counts the number of youth who are re-proceeded by Police within 12-months of their initial offending. Police action includes warnings, alternative actions, youth justice family group conferences (FGCs), and prosecution in the Youth Court (court action).

## SENTENCING

### Prison capacity remains a significant issue as more people receive imprisonment sentences

**More people are receiving prison sentences, and the proportion of people sentenced to prison is highest on record**

**Number of people sentenced to imprisonment and community-based services**
*Source: Ministry of Justice*
A person may receive more than one type of sentence when convicted of a charge. The most serious sentence is used in these tables. Imprisonment includes life imprisonment, preventive detention and imprisonment. Community-based sentences include home detention, community detention, intensive supervision, community work and supervision. This is based on Tier 1 statistics which can only display figures for 12 months and are updated every 6 months.

**The prison population now exceeds 11,000 driven by an increase in sentenced population**

**Prison population by type of imprisonment**
*Source: derived by Ministry of Justice using Department of Corrections data*
These figures may differ slightly from publicly available measures or numbers from other justice sector partners. Prison population projections are from the Ministry of Justice's annual Justice Sector Projections report. The remand rate is the proportion of people prosecuted in court who are remanded in custody.

**Average days spent on remand increased slightly**

**Average days on remand**
*Source: Ministry of Justice using Department of Corrections data*
This data is a rolling 12-month average of average days on remand. These figures may differ slightly from publicly available measures or numbers from other justice sector partners.

## TIMELY JUSTICE

### Timely access to justice continues to improve despite more category 3 cases

**Timely access to justice increased to 84% of cases**

**Proportion of cases disposed within timeliness thresholds**
*Source: Ministry of Justice*
This data is a rolling 12-month average counting cases over the new timeliness thresholds in the criminal District Courts. Different timeliness thresholds apply to each case category. The 90% target was set by the Chief District Court Judge and is based on a pre-COVID timeliness standard. The timeliness thresholds were amended to include an additional 6 months for all cases with pre-sentence judicial monitoring, to better reflect the original intention of the Timely Access to Justice protocol. This is implemented from Aug 25 onwards.

**Backlog cases continue to decrease**

**Number of backlog cases**
*Source: Ministry of Justice*
This data measures active cases outside of the timeliness thresholds ("in backlog"). Backlog cases are shown as monthly totals.

The timeliness thresholds were amended to include an additional 6 months for all cases with pre-sentence judicial monitoring, to better reflect the original intention of the Timely Access to Justice protocol. This is implemented from Aug 25 onwards.

**Overall cases coming into court slightly decreased, but the number and rate of category 3 cases slightly increased**

**Number of cases coming into court**
*Source: Ministry of Justice*
New business is shown as a 12-month rolling total

## CRIME CONTINUED

Public Order Offences and Justice Offences are distinct divisions of offences. "Justice Related Offences" refers to offences against justice orders, regulations, and procedures (e.g., resisting/hindering Police, breaching bail or parole orders) whereas Public Order Offences cover offences relating to public safety, health regulations, and disruptive conduct (e.g., wilful trespass, prohibited display of gang insignia, disorderly behaviour). These offences are categorised according to ANZSOC 2023 (https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/classifications/australian-and-new-zealand-standard-offence-classification-anzsoc/latest-release).

# Housing Snapshot Dashboard

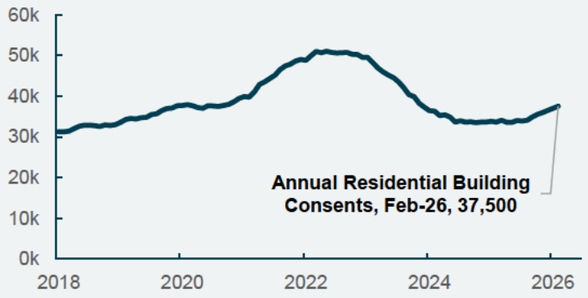
Latest data: 31 March 2026

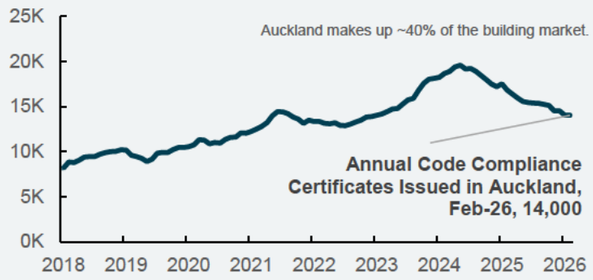
## Housing and Rental Market

- Building intentions in near-term are marginally trending up after the lows in 2024, recording a shift toward higher-density housing.
- National rents fell over the year to March 2026 and are expected to remain subdued through mid-2026, reflecting weaker migration, elevated housing supply from recent dwelling completions, and cooling wage growth.
- National house prices remained broadly flat in Q1 2026 reflecting high listings although significant regional variation persisted.

### Residential Construction

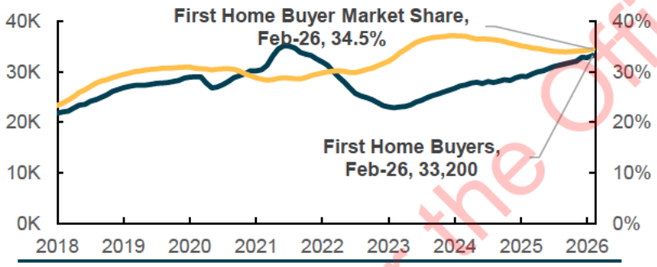
- Building consents remain stable, but have risen slightly in recent months with 37,500 consents in the year to February 2026, indicating increasing intentions to build.
- Construction activity is showing small signs of improvement, but the sector is still under pressure from high costs, weak demand, and financial stress. Looking ahead, rising costs and economic uncertainty mean any recovery is likely to be slow and fragile, with activity remaining subdued in the near term.
- In Auckland, fewer dwellings were completed over the past year, reflecting reduced consents and activity over 2023/2024.

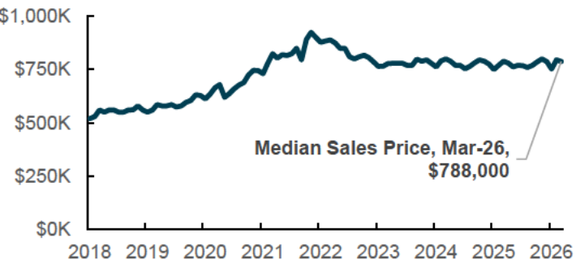



### Property Market

- House Prices have remained largely flat. Despite monthly volatility, the REINZ House Price Index is down by 0.2% in March 2026, compared to March 2025.
- House prices are unlikely to rise over the next 12 months due to high listings and cautious buyer sentiment.
- Home Ownership Affordability improved in the year to Dec 25:
  - Deposit Affordability has improved by 4.1% as house prices remain flat whilst wages continue to grow, albeit slowly. Wages outpacing house prices is not typically sustained for long periods.
  - Mortgage Serviceability has improved 28.6% as mortgage rates fell over the past year. It is expected to stabilise as rates edge higher.
- The number of First Home Buyers is rising supported by lower house prices in some regions and modest income growth improving affordability.

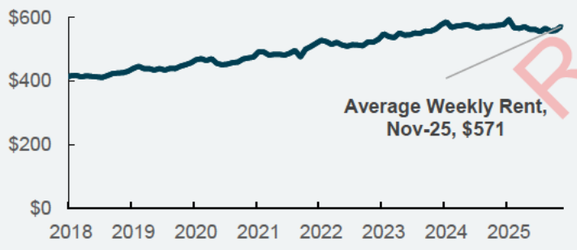



| | Median Sales Price (Mar-26) | Change in House Prices (HPI) (Mar-25 – Mar-26) |
|---|---|---|
| **New Zealand** | **$788,000** | **-0.2%** |
| Auckland | $1,040 000 | -1.2% |
| Wellington | $780,000 | -1.8% |
| Canterbury | $712,000 | +3.7% |
| Waikato | $739,000 | -0.3% |
| Bay of Plenty | $810,000 | +1.7% |

### Rental Market

- Affordability of new tenancies improved by 2.8% over the year to December 2025, with wages growing faster than rents.
- Nationally new rent prices have fallen slightly over the year to March 2026, mostly due to falling rents in Auckland and Wellington. Much of the rest of the country is seeing slight annual rent increases.



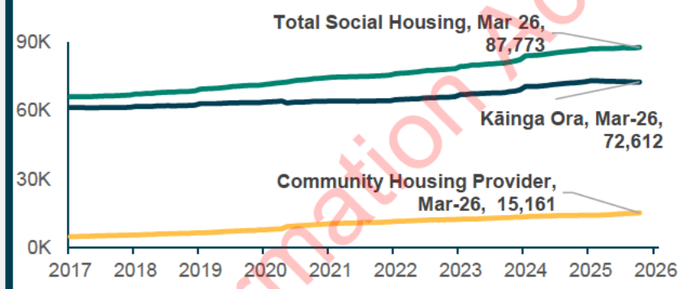

| | Average Weekly Rent (Nov-25) | Change in new rents (Mar-25 – Mar-26) |
|---|---|---|
| **New Zealand** | **$571** | **-0.4%** |
| Auckland | $623 | -1.3% |
| Wellington | $563 | -2.4% |
| Canterbury | $553 | +0.4% |
| Rest of North Is | | +0.2% |
| Rest of South Is | | +1.4% |

## Social Housing and Government Support

- The number of applicants on the Housing Register is up slightly compared to a year ago. In recent months, the register has begun to level off.
- The majority of Social Housing places funded through Budget 2024 and Budget 2025 are approved for funding.
- Kāinga Ora vacant home numbers have continued to decline meaning a higher proportion of the available stock is occupied.

### Social Housing

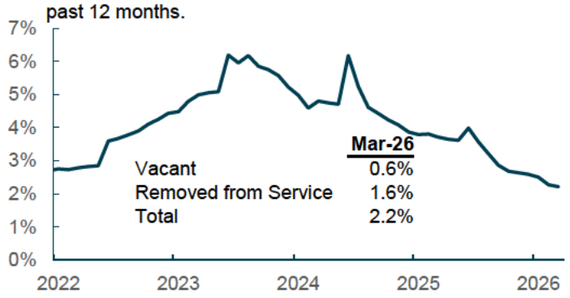
- Over the year to March 2026, there has been a net increase in Social Housing places, of 1,515 (+1.8%), to 87,773.




- Budget 2024, allocated $140 million for 1,500 new Social Housing places through Community Housing Providers by June 2027. By 31 March 2026, 211 homes have been delivered (and ready for tenanting) and a total of 1,544 approved for funding (inclusive of those delivered).
- Budget 2025 allocated $128 million over four years for at least an additional 550 new Social Housing places in Auckland through Community Housing Providers by November 2026. By 31 March 2026, 228 homes have been delivered (ready for tenanting) and 579 have been approved for funding (inclusive of those delivered).

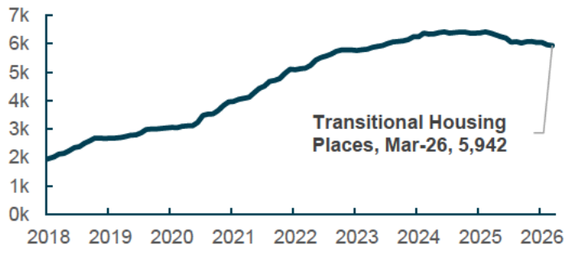
### Unoccupied Kāinga Ora Homes

- The total number of unoccupied Kāinga Ora homes as at end of March 2026 was 1,609 – a decrease of 1,070 from March 2025.
- Vacant home numbers have continued to decline over the past 12 months.



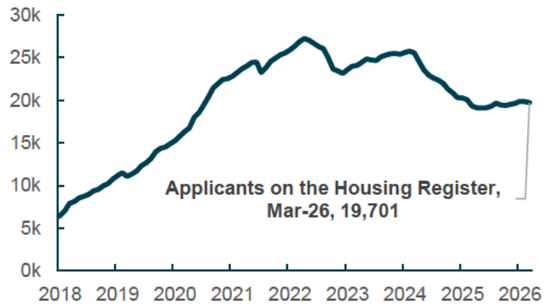

### Transitional Housing

- Transitional housing places reduced by 435 (-6.8%) to 5,942 over the year to March 2026, driven by motel exits. Overall supply is expected to be maintained, with remaining exited motel places replaced on a one-for-one basis.



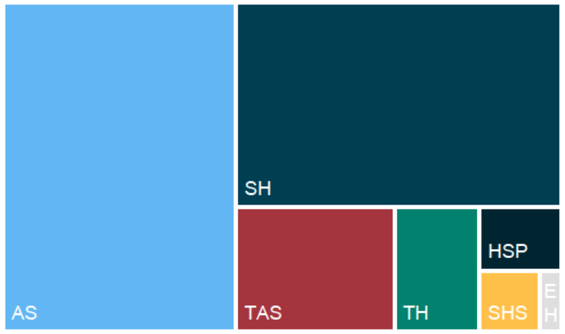

### Housing Register

- As of March 2026, there were 393 more applicants on the Housing Register than a year earlier, a 2.0% increase but numbers have stabilised in recent months after peaks in 23/24.




### Annual Spend - Unpublished

In the year to 31 March 2026, the annual spend across housing support was over **$5.5bn.**




| | |
|---|---|
| Accommodation Supplement (AS) | $2.3 bn |
| Social Housing - IRRS and OS (SH) | $2.0 bn |
| Temporary Additional Support (TAS) | $0.6 bn |
| Transitional Housing (TH) | $0.3 bn |
| Housing Service Products (HSP) | $0.2 bn |
| Social Housing Services (SHS) | $0.1 bn |
| Emergency Housing (EH) | <$0.1 bn |

* Total spend on housing also includes smaller programmes and new supply activity

- Annual EH spend has dropped from $125 million (Mar25) to $40 million (Mar26).
- SH and TH are contracted numbers whereas others are demand driven.

### Kāinga Ora Build Cost per square metre - Unpublished

**$3,159** /m²

12 month average to March 2026

($3,216 /m², 12 month average to December 2025)

Exc. GST. Above ground build costs only. Does not include overheads.

DPMC: 5152850:1

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# NOTES AND CAVEATS

Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

## Housing and Rental Market

### Construction

#### Measures

**37,500 Dwellings consented (Feb 2025 – Feb 2026)**
12-month rolling actuals of new consented dwellings. **(Stats NZ)**

**14,000 Dwellings received CCC's in Auckland (Jan 2025 – Jan 2026)**
12-month rolling total of dwellings which received Code Compliance Certificates (CCCs) in Auckland City. **(Auckland Council)** Auckland is the only council that regularly releases this data.

#### Comments

Consents represent intention to build. Not all consents will result in a new dwelling. Dwellings consented are down since the 2022 peak, with regional variation. Broadly consenting has decreased in the North Island and slightly increased in the South Island.

#### Sources

Dwellings consented - Stats NZ: Building consents issued: February 2026 | Stats NZ
Dwellings consented forecast – BRANZ: Unavailable
Code Compliance Certificates issued - Auckland Council: Auckland monthly housing update, March 2026 - Knowledge Auckland

### Property Market

#### Measures

**$788,000 Median house price in Mar 2026**
Median sales price of houses across New Zealand. **(REINZ)**

**-0.2% Annual change in HPI (Mar 2025 – Mar 2026)**
The HPI measures the true movement of house values over time, influenced by housing attributes such as land area and is not affected by the quality or composition of houses sold. **(REINZ)**

**+4.1% Deposit affordability (Dec 2024 – Dec 2025)**
**+28.6% Mortgage serviceability (Dec 2024 – Dec 2025)**
These indicators show how the affordability of saving for a deposit and servicing a mortgage has changed, by comparing price change with growth in median household income. Positive change means purchasing a home and servicing mortgage repayments is more affordable. Note that this is a temporary, cyclical effe t. **(HUD)**

**33,200 First Home Buyers (Feb 2025 – Feb 2026)**
12-month rolling total number of first home buyers. This is measured by mortgage lending to first home buyers. These figures won't capture cash purchases. **(RBNZ)**

**34.5% of new mortgage commitments are First Home Buyers (Feb 2025 - Feb 2026)**
12-month rolling percentage of new mortgage commitments which are First Home Buyers. **(RBNZ)**

#### Comments

HPI is recommended for measuring change in sales prices, as house sales prices can be heavily influenced by the typology and quality of houses sold.
National HPI have shown little movement over the past year, with regional variation.
House Prices aren't anticipated to rise rapidly over the next 12 months due to decade high levels of listings for sale and cautious buyer sentiment due to slow recovery of the labour market and concerns about economic outlook.

#### Sources

Median house price and HPI – REINZ: REINZ - New Zealand Property Report - March 2026
First Home Buyers – RBNZ: New residential mortgage lending by borrower type (C31) - Reserve Bank of New Zealand - Te Pūtea Matua
Deposit Affordability and Mortgage Serviceability – HUD: https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/change-in-housing-a fordability-indicators/about-the-indicators

### Rental Market

#### Measures

**$571 Average weekly rent (Nov 2025)**
Average (Geometric Mean) Weekly rent price of tenancies with a lodged bond. **(Tenancy Services)**

**+2.8% Change in Rental Affordability (Dec 2024 – Dec 2025)**
Annual change in rents relative to Median Incomes. **(HUD)**

**-0.4% Change in Rental Prices for new tenancies (flow RPI) (Mar 2025 – Mar 2026)**
Annual change in National Rental Price Index. **(Stats NZ)**
Flow measures rental inflation for new, private tenancies. It tends to be more volatile than the stock measure

**+0.7% Change in Rental Prices for all tenancies (stock RPI) (Mar 2025 – Mar 2026)**
Rental Price Index. Estimates rental price changes across the whole rental population, including renters currently in tenancies. **(Stats NZ)**

#### Comments

Rental Price Index (flow) accounts for rental inflation for new private tenancies. This provides a rent comparison across regions where data is available.
A positive change in Rental Affordability means a new rental has become more affordable relative to median incomes. This is not representative of all renters as many renters do not receive income growth comparable to the median.

#### Sources

Rents - MBIE: https://www.tenancy.govt.nz/about-tenancy-services/data-and-statistics/rental-bond-data/
Rental Affordability and Change in Rental Prices - HUD: https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/change-in-housing-affordability-indicators/about-the-indicators
RPI Stock – Selected price indexes: March 2026 | Stats NZ

## Social Housing and Government Support

### Social Housing

#### Measures

**87,773 Social Housing places (Mar 2026)**
Total homes managed by Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities, and Community Housing Providers (CHPs) for Social Housing eligible for Income Related Rent Subsidy (IRRS).

#### Comments

Kāinga Ora includes unoccupied homes. The CHP number is for occupied only.
Social homes approved for funding include properties that have already been delivered.

#### Source

Social Housing Places – HUD: https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/the-government-housing-dashboard/public-homes#tabset
1,500 statement - New partnerships for social housing | Beehive.govt.nz

### Housing Register

#### Comments

The Housing Register includes eligible applicants not currently in Social Housing who are ready to be matched to a suitable home. Exits for other reasons includes applicants who are no longer eligible, have had a change in circumstances or who no longer require Social Housing.

#### Source

Housing Register - MSD: https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/housing/monthly-housing-reporting.html

### Transitional Housing

#### Comments

Transitional Housing Places are not households. A place can be a property but can also be a motel room or a single-bedroom in a shared space. Transitional Housing provides immediate, short-term accommodation, as well as support services for finding a sustainable housing outcome.

#### Source

Contracted TH Places – HUD: https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/the-government-housing-dashboard/transitional-housing#tabset

### Annual Spend

Total spend on housing also includes smaller programmes and new supply activity.

#### Source

Annual Spend on Housing Support – HUD & MSD: Unpublished

### Unoccupied Kāinga Ora Homes

#### Measures

**2.2% Kāinga Ora Homes Unoccupied (Mar 2026)**
Percent of Kāinga Ora social housing stock unoccupied at the end of each month.

#### Comments

Unoccupied homes is derived from Social Housing published data, it includes vacant homes (including those ready to let or under repair) and homes removed from service for refurbishment, redevelopment or disposal.

#### Source

Kāinga Ora Unoccupied Homes – HUD: https://www.hud.govt.nz/stats-and-insights/the-government-housing-dashboard/public-homes#tabset

### Kāinga Ora Build Cost

#### Comments

**Kāinga Ora Build Cost** is a twelve-month rolling average cost for above ground costs only,
The measure doesn't account for typology or location and doesn't include overhead costs associated with building.
Care should be taken when this measure is used to compare against Market Build Costs.
**Kāinga Ora** is targeting a build cost per square meter of 2,980 for FY **2025/26** and is at $3,159 per square meter at the end of the third quarter coming down from the previous quarter cost of 3,216.
A new measure which includes overheads is under development for the 2026/27 SPE

#### Source

Kāinga Ora Build Cost – KO: Unpublished

Note: The average weekly rent data currently runs to November 2025 due to a data review being undertaken with priority by MBIE following some duplicate data being identified. This will be updated in the next dashboard.

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