



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Tax Measures

Portfolios                      Finance / Revenue

On 16 March 2020, Cabinet:

#### Use of money interest remission

- 1        **agreed** that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue be given the discretion to remit use of money interest for taxpayers that have had their ability to pay tax on time significantly adversely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak;
- 2        **agreed** that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue's discretion to remit use of money interest in response to the COVID-19 outbreak would apply only to tax payments due on or after 14 February 2020;
- 3        **agreed** that the Commissioner of Inland Revenue's discretion to remit use of money interest in response to the COVID-19 outbreak would apply for a period of two years only, unless extended by an Order in Council;
- 4        **noted** that giving the Commissioner of Inland Revenue the discretion to remit use of money interest in response to the COVID-19 outbreak would not have any fiscal cost;

#### Information sharing

- 5        **agreed** that the tax legislation be amended to allow Inland Revenue to share information with government departments, New Zealand Police, ACC and Kāinga Ora, in order to assist these agencies in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak;
- 6        **agreed** that this information sharing provision apply from the date of enactment for a period of two years only, unless extended by an Order in Council;
- 7        **agreed** that the same confidentiality requirements on officers or employees who currently receive taxpayer information from Inland Revenue would also apply to officers or employees of government agencies who receive information under paragraph 5 above;
- 8        **noted** that Inland Revenue will retain a discretion to refuse to disclose information if Inland Revenue considers it is undesirable to do so;

**Legislative implications**

- 9 **agreed** that the legislative amendments to the Tax Administration Act 1994 required to give effect to the above proposals be included in a Bill to be introduced as soon as practicable;
- 10 **invited** the Minister of Revenue to issue drafting instructions to Inland Revenue to draft the necessary amendments to give effect to the above paragraphs;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister of Revenue to make decisions on the detailed design of the above proposals and, in consultation with the Minister of Finance and the Leader of the House, to introduce a Bill containing these proposals as soon as practicable.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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**Hard-copy distribution:**

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