



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Regulations 2025

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 6 November 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Regulations 2025 come into effect on 2 March 2026 and will:
 - 1.1 specify which benefits are subject to mandatory reviews; and
 - 1.2 prescribe circumstances for the exception from the requirement for the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to undertake a mandatory review;

- 2 **noted** that in January 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) agreed that the specified benefits are:
 - 2.1 Supported Living Payment;
 - 2.2 Emergency Benefit with an expiry date beyond 52 weeks or no expiry date at all;
 - 2.3 Accommodation Supplement (except for those receiving Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment);
 - 2.4 Disability Allowance (except Jobseeker Support or Sole Parent Support clients who have confirmed their disability related costs in the past 44 weeks at the time their main benefits reapplication notice is sent);
 - 2.5 New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) with a Non-Qualified Partner (NQP) (grandparented);

[ECO-25-MIN-0002]

- 3 **noted** that ECO also agreed that the prescribed circumstances for exceptions would be:
 - 3.1 if the client is hospitalised for more than 13 weeks;
 - 3.2 the client is in residential disability care or rest home care;
 - 3.3 the client resides in, or is present in and cannot reasonably leave an area in respect of which a state of local or national emergency is in force; or

- 3.4 an epidemic notice is in force in the area the client resides in, or is present in and cannot reasonably leave;
- 4 **noted** that the final drafting of the Amendment Regulations differs in wording from the decisions taken by ECO but achieves the same policy intent;
- 5 **noted** that the use of Automated Decision-Making to administer aspects of mandatory reviews will be assessed against MSD's existing Automated Decision-Making Standard and Privacy Human Rights and Ethics Framework;
- 6 **authorised** the submission of the Social Security (Mandatory Reviews) Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 28177/2.0] to the Executive Council.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Office of the Attorney-General
Office of the Minister for the Environment