

Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Space



23 December 2024

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister Willis

I am confirming that I have submitted initiatives for the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), outlining my proposals to reprioritise Science, Innovation and Technology portfolio funding as part of Budget 2025.

As per your letter of 9 December, MBIE has submitted Confidential advice to Government using the standard templates provided with the *Budget 2025 guidance for Agencies*. The tables below outline, at a high level, the components Confidential advice to Government.

My officials have tried to match the elements of our agreed reform of the science, innovation and technology system as close as possible Confidential advice to Government

[Redacted content]

Confidential advice to Government

[Redacted content]

Confidential advice to Government



Confidential advice to Government can be funded within the existing SI&T appropriations, and templates have been submitted into the Budget process to confirm this.

In line with our recent Cabinet decisions to take steps to reorganise the SI&T system to ensure it is able to deliver stronger outcomes for New Zealand, I recommend that we advance the Confidential advice to Government provided above. This will enable these important SI&T initiatives to be implemented, while retaining funding in existing mechanisms, such as the contestable funds. The contestable funds ensure that the best research is supported for the benefit of New Zealand and our future economy.

On your request that we look for opportunities to consolidate grants and funds, I note that the SI&T funding mechanisms are a key focus of the second phase of the Science System Advisory Group. This work will be advanced during 2025 Confidential advice to Government

Yours sincerely,

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology