



Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 6 April to Sunday 19 April 2026

Date:	16 April 2026	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0030993

Ministers	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simon Watts Minister for Auckland	Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have contributed content

Ministry of Transport, Police and Department of Internal Affairs

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments

BRIEFING

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Purpose

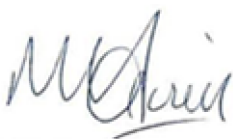
To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 6 April to Sunday 19 April 2026.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting.

Noted



Michael Quinn

Head of the Auckland Policy Office

16 / 04 / 2026

Hon Simon Watts

Minister for Auckland

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1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland City Centre	
<p>Michael Quinn Head of the APO</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Auckland Council undertakes a daily rough sleeper count across key areas of the city centre. While the count does not cover the entire city centre, it provides a useful indicator and is shared with the APO to help inform the multi-agency City Centre project. The reporting period runs from Wednesday to Tuesday, producing a seven-day average.</p> <p>For the seven-day period ending Wednesday 15 April, the average count was 25 visible rough sleepers. This sits within the usual observed range of 21 to 25, although at the upper end of that range.</p> <p>Daily average: 25</p> <p>Wednesday 8 April: 23</p> <p>Thursday 9 April: 23</p> <p>Friday 10 April: 30</p> <p>Saturday 11 April: 23</p> <p>Sunday 12 April: 17</p> <p>Monday 13 April: 23</p> <p>Tuesday 14 April: 34</p>
Auckland City and Regional Deal	
<p>Michael Quinn Head of the APO</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>The Auckland Policy Office Leadership Team, comprising senior Auckland based staff from core APO agencies, met with the DIA City and Regional Deal team on 16 April to discuss the next steps for implementing the Auckland Deal.</p> <p>DIA is developing an agency engagement process for May to help shape the development of the implementation plan. Under the agreement, this plan is to be developed within the first six months of the Deal being signed.</p> <p>We emphasised that the Auckland Deal will be a central pillar for your work as Minister for Auckland, and that you and Auckland Council will be looking to move quickly into the next phase with clear momentum.</p> <p>We also noted that implementation arrangements should reflect Auckland's particular circumstances. This includes your Auckland portfolio responsibilities, the established cross agency leadership and coordination platform within the APO, strong senior agency networks already operating in Auckland, and a well engaged business community that is keen to contribute.</p> <p>Several significant work programmes are already under way or in development and can be progressed while implementation arrangements are developed. These include the transport reforms, the location of the NZIAT innovation hub at GRIDAKL, the regional spatial plan and Drury as a priority growth area. Other initiatives will depend on decisions by portfolio Ministers and agencies as new priorities are</p>



	<p>set.</p> <p>We will keep you informed of developments and identify any issues or opportunities that may require your attention.</p>
<p>Auckland Transport News</p>	
<p>Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>The Mayor of Auckland, Wayne Brown, has called for further promotion of public transport as a way to navigate the fuel crisis. He highlighted the \$50 fare cap and how affordable that was compared to fuel. He also suggested the Government could provide funding to lower the cap to \$40 while fuel prices are high. While it is too early to see trends on an annual basis, and patronage does typically rise in March, public transport patronage in the period 20 March to 2 April 2026 is up 7% on the period (9-22 February 2026), prior to the start of the conflict in the Middle East.</p> <p>In early April 2026, Infrastructure New Zealand and Committee for Auckland released “Transporting Auckland Forward: A Call to Action”. This is the output of a transport summit held in March attended by around 60 Auckland leaders across the public and private sector. The summit was opened by the previous Minister for Auckland and Mayor Brown. The report does not contain new insights but is a useful summary and calls for stronger political commitment, clearer alignment on priorities and faster delivery. The issues traversed in the report will be picked up in 30-year transport plan for Auckland work as part of the reforms provided for in the Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill.</p>
<p>Law and Order</p>	
<p>Faga Siaki Director, Tamaki Makaurau Partnerships Police Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Auckland Police’s Iwi and Community Partnership Emergency Management Co-ordinators supported Auckland Emergency Management and the Auckland Transport Operations Centre throughout the week of 6 April and into the weekend during the preparation, response, and recovery phases for the severe weather event Cyclone Vaianu. Other agency partners included those from Fire and Emergency New Zealand, St John Ambulance and New Zealand Defence Force. All agencies contributed to ensuring the preservation of life and maintenance of critical services. Support for community wellbeing was maintained across Tamaki Makaurau.</p> <p>Additional highlights for Auckland Police’s Iwi and Partnership team included, for example, supporting the Unitec Pre-Police Course at the Mt Albert Campus; and facilitating a West Auckland Driver Licence Workshop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Unitec Pre-police course supports the Police Recruitment team to prepare potential police applicants for the physical and mental challenges of policing, including fitness sessions. Auckland Police have been able to reinforce the standards expected and contribute to a positive and supportive environment where the students push themselves while also encouraging each other.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The West Auckland Driver Licence Workshop supports community, including rangatahi, to progress toward obtaining their learner or restricted driver licence. The workshop provided information on the driver licensing process, legal responsibilities, and road safety expectations, while addressing common barriers such as access, confidence, and understanding of requirements. It was delivered to 23 people in a supportive and culturally responsive environment, and aimed to increase licence uptake, promote safer driving behaviours, and improve access to community, education, and employment opportunities. <p>Additional highlights for Auckland Police’s Ethnic Responsiveness team included, for example, supporting the North Harbour Pasifika Hauora Collective Youth Sports Day; and recording prevention videos for the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sports day was a community-focused event to promote physical activity, wellbeing, and positive engagement among Pasifika rangatahi on 7 April. The event was in partnership with Harbour Sports, North Harbour Pasifika Hauora Collective, and Auckland University of Technology. The day emphasised participation over competition, welcoming all ability levels and encouraging teamwork, respect, and enjoyment. The event served as a platform to strengthen connections between Pasifika youth, community partners, and local services, highlighting positive pathways and role modelling. More than 60 rangatahi participated in this year’s event. The videos for the RSE Scheme were recorded in several Pacific and Ethnic languages for workers across New Zealand. This work is a collaboration between the Police, MBIE, Ministry of Health and the community to spread safety and prevention messages to help New Zealand’s RSE employees understand the law, their rights and safety while working in New Zealand under the scheme.
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2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Letter to Ministers and Auckland work programme report back	
Andy Hill Director Auckland MBIE Privacy of natural persons	At the Auckland officials meeting on 15 April 2026, you indicated that you wished to write to your Ministerial colleagues to remind them of your role as Minister for Auckland. In particular, you wished to reinforce that you have a Cabinet mandate to seek information on central government Auckland-related initiatives directly from relevant agencies, to fulfil the advocacy and coordination roles of the Auckland portfolio and meet Cabinet report back commitments [ECO-25-MIN-0068 refers].

	<p>The Cabinet report back refers to Cabinet’s invitation to the Minister for Auckland to report back to relevant Ministers at least once every six months on the cross-government work programme in Auckland [ECO-25-MIN-0068 refers].</p> <p>We recommend that your letter serves the dual purpose of reminding your colleagues of your Cabinet mandate as well as providing them with the central government work programme for Auckland.</p> <p>A draft letter is attached at Annex One.</p> <p>We have provided two views of the Auckland work programme. The first covers the six-month period from 1 July 2025 to 31 December 2026 (attached at Annex Two) and the second is an indicative, forward looking view covering the period 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 (attached at Annex Three). These two reports are a continuation of the series commenced under the previous Minister for Auckland.</p> <p>Pending your approval of the content, we are having the two work programme reports put into a designed format to maximise their impact and value. We will provide these formatted versions to your office to accompany the letter that is provided to Ministers.</p>
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Changes to future fortnightly report format

<p>Andy Hill Director Auckland MBIE Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>At our first Auckland Officials meeting, you confirmed that you wish to receive fortnightly reports for your Auckland portfolio, with the understanding that any pressing issues that arise between reports will be raised directly and promptly with your office. You have also confirmed that formal Officials meetings will be held fortnightly in a cadence aligned with the fortnightly report. Informal meetings in alternate weeks will be held if required.</p> <p>The existing structure of the fortnightly report is organised around the priorities of the previous Minister for Auckland plus items of general interest and specific updates on transport and water reform.</p> <p>We propose that we continue to provide you with items of general Auckland interest and specific updates on transport. We understand that, as Minister for Local Government you are regularly updated on water reform, so we do not propose to replicate that in your Auckland report.</p> <p>In terms of your priorities, we understand that you would like to receive regular updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auckland City and Regional Deal • City Rail Link • Move-on orders • New Zealand Institute of Advanced Technology • Queens Wharf and Cloud negotiation <p>We have requested updates on these topics but as they were not available for this report, we will move to the updated format for the next fortnight.</p>
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	<p>In this report we have endeavoured to mirror the sections of your other portfolio reports that provide you with the status of briefings that have requested, upcoming meetings, OIA requests and Ministerial responses etc.</p> <p>We would welcome your feedback on any further changes to the format and content of these reports.</p>
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Boil water notice

<p>Lori Hand Executive Director Water Services Reform DIA Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>On Monday evening 6 April 2025 Watercare issued a boil water notice for parts of Hillsborough, Mt Roskill, Royal Oak and Three Kings as E. coli was detected in a routine drinking water sample. Tankers were made available, and support was provided to those unable to boil water.</p> <p>The notice was lifted on Wednesday morning 8 April 2025 after further testing confirmed that the result was a false positive and that there was no contamination. The issue was caused by a specific water quality monitoring tap which has now been replaced and retested.</p>
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<p>Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons</p>	
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3. Auckland dashboard

Transport environmental scan																																					
<p>Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Public transport patronage update</p> <p>For the fortnight 23 March – 5 April 2026, public transport patronage totalled 3.8 million boardings across the city’s public transport network. 91.8% of boardings in February 2026 were considered to be on time, ahead of the 89% target. The financial year to date patronage total of 58 million was behind the 60.2 million target.</p> <p>Patronage declined by 2% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year, likely due to an earlier Easter period. Patronage declined across all modes, with train patronage declining the most at 9%, likely due to the rail close down from the 1 April 2026.</p> <p>Public transport patronage for the year to 28 February 2026 is 89 million boardings which has increased on the previous year’s total of 88.9 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage had a small increase, while train and ferry patronage declined.</p> <p>At 89 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 95% of Auckland Transport’s latest SOI target of 94 million annual public transport boardings for 2025/26. This also represents 86% of the pre-pandemic 12-month public transport patronage level in the year to December 2019 of 103.2 million boardings.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">PT fortnightly patronage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Mode</th> <th>23 March – 05 April 2026</th> <th>23 March – 05 April 2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>3,108,036</td> <td>3,129,353</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rail</td> <td>611,800</td> <td>675,479</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ferry</td> <td>115,760</td> <td>120,921</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,835,596</td> <td>3,925,753</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">PT monthly patronage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Mode</th> <th>February 2026</th> <th>February 2025</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>6,129,230</td> <td>5,889,382</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rail</td> <td>1,228,115</td> <td>1,168,569</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ferry</td> <td>497,602</td> <td>477,848</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>7,854,947</td> <td>7,535,799</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.</p>	PT fortnightly patronage			Mode	23 March – 05 April 2026	23 March – 05 April 2025	Bus	3,108,036	3,129,353	Rail	611,800	675,479	Ferry	115,760	120,921	Total	3,835,596	3,925,753	PT monthly patronage			Mode	February 2026	February 2025	Bus	6,129,230	5,889,382	Rail	1,228,115	1,168,569	Ferry	497,602	477,848	Total	7,854,947	7,535,799
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PT annual patronage		
Mode	Year to Feb 28 2026	Year to Feb 28 2025
Bus	70,436,663	69,917,064
Rail	13,650,595	14,069,456
Ferry	4,929,754	4,938,755
Total	89,017,012	88,925,275

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.
NB: Rail and ferry data includes replacement services.

4. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming Cabinet papers

Title	Committee	Expected committee date	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
None				

3.2 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

Title	Date to Minister	Action for Minister	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
None				

3.3 Upcoming meetings/ events

Date	Meeting Info
Friday, 24 April 2026 4:00 pm-4:30 pm	Meeting with Desley Simpson

3.4 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
None		

3.5 Official Information Act requests (Ministerial and Departmental for consultation)

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
None					

3.6 Upcoming significant media and announcements

Timing	Announcement
None	

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
None				

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
23 February 2026	BRIEFING-REQ-0026972 Proactive release of Auckland Briefings 12 Nov - 31 Dec 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release, with appropriate redactions, briefings from 12 Nov to 31 Dec 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise.
13 March 2026	Proactive release of briefing titles for February 2026	MBIE provided your office with the list of briefing titles for review
15 April 2026	Proactive release of briefing titles for March 2026	MBIE provided your office with the list of briefing titles for review

3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
None				

Annexes

Annex One: Draft Letter to Ministers

Annex Two: Draft Auckland Consolidated Central Government work programme 1 July 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

Annex Three: Draft Auckland Consolidated Central Government work programme 1 January 2026 - 31 Dec 2026

Annex One: Draft Letter to Ministers

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Revenue
Minister for Auckland

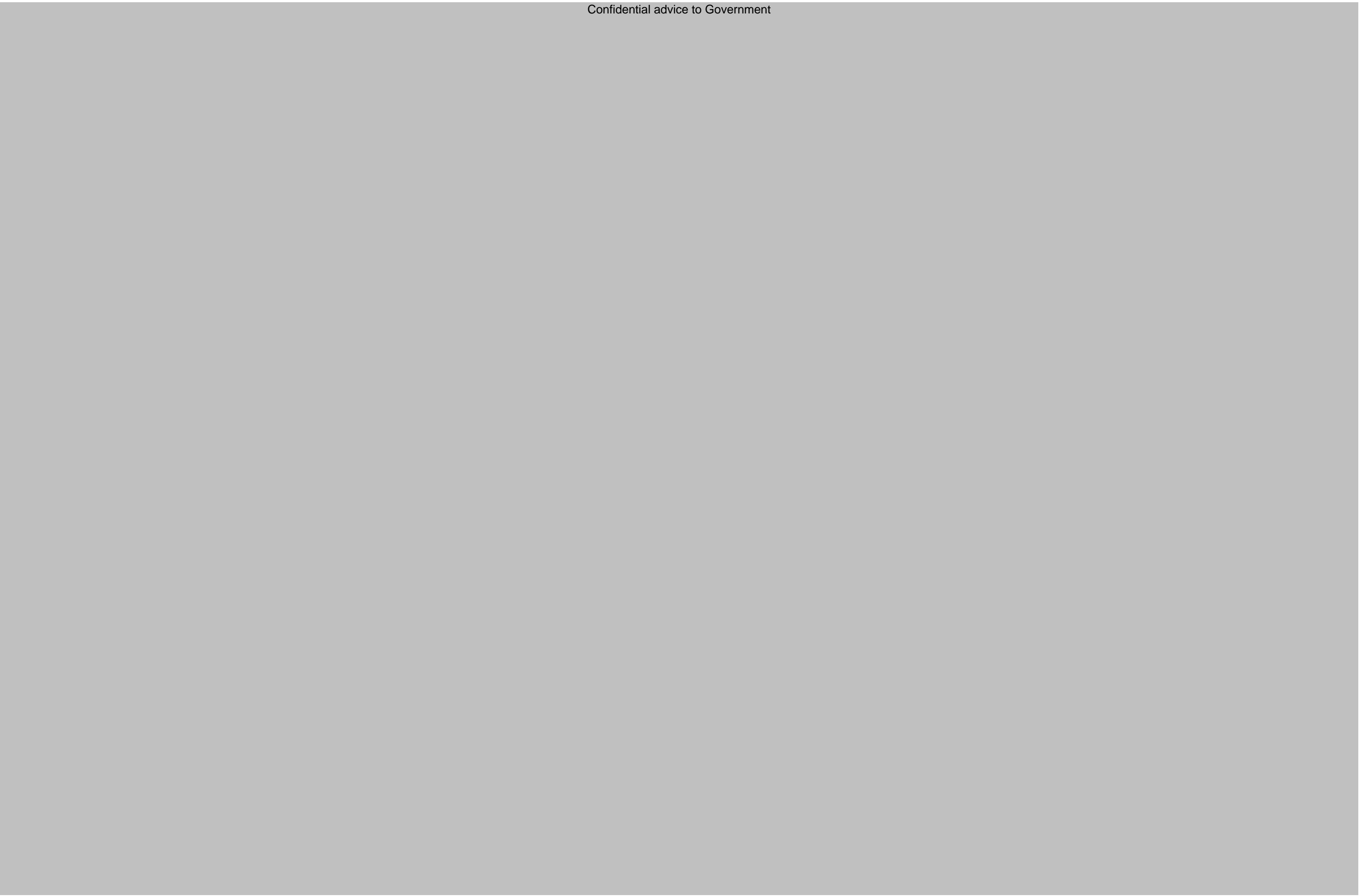


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Annex Two: Draft Auckland Consolidated Central Government work programme
1 July 2025 - 31 Dec 2025

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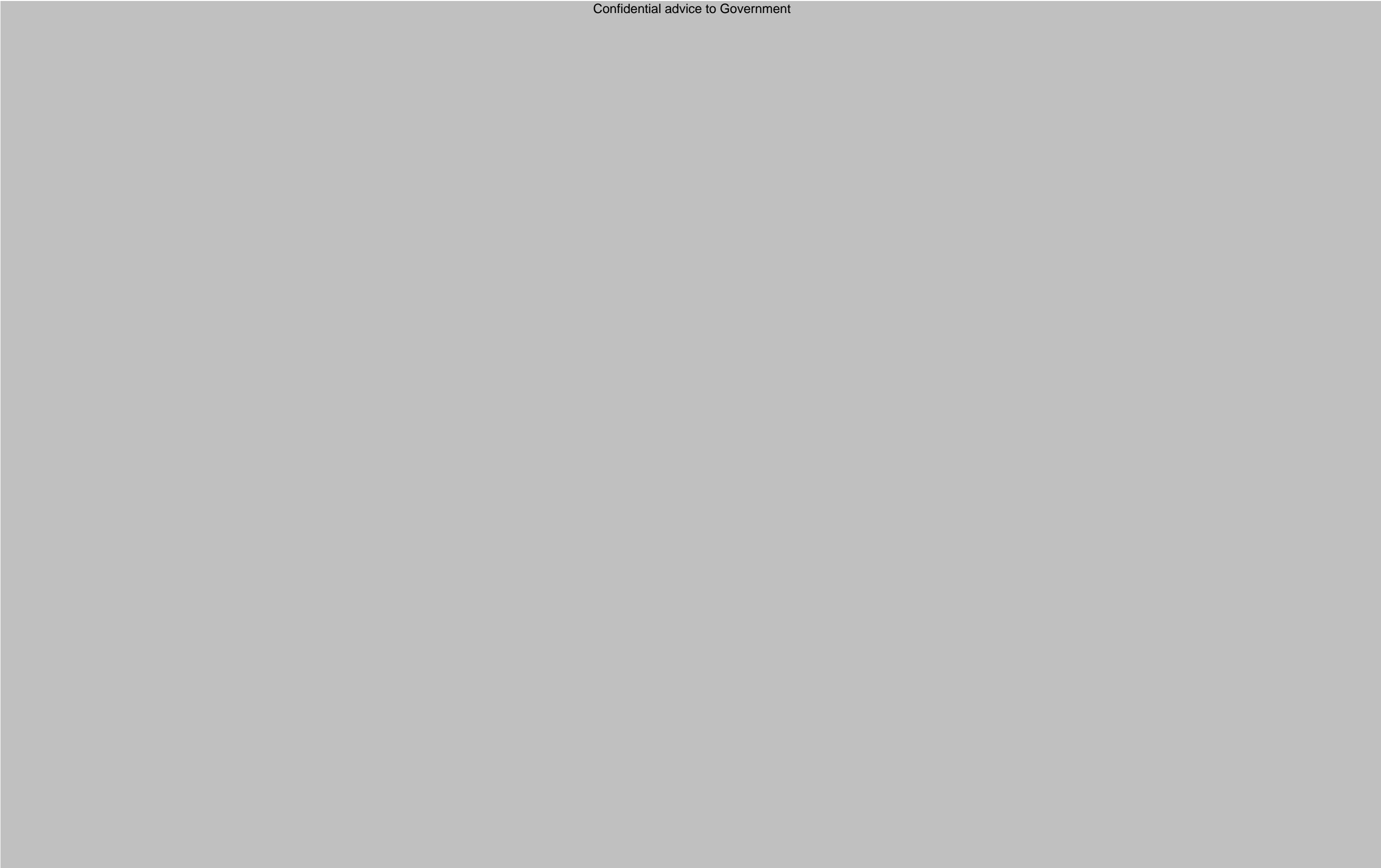
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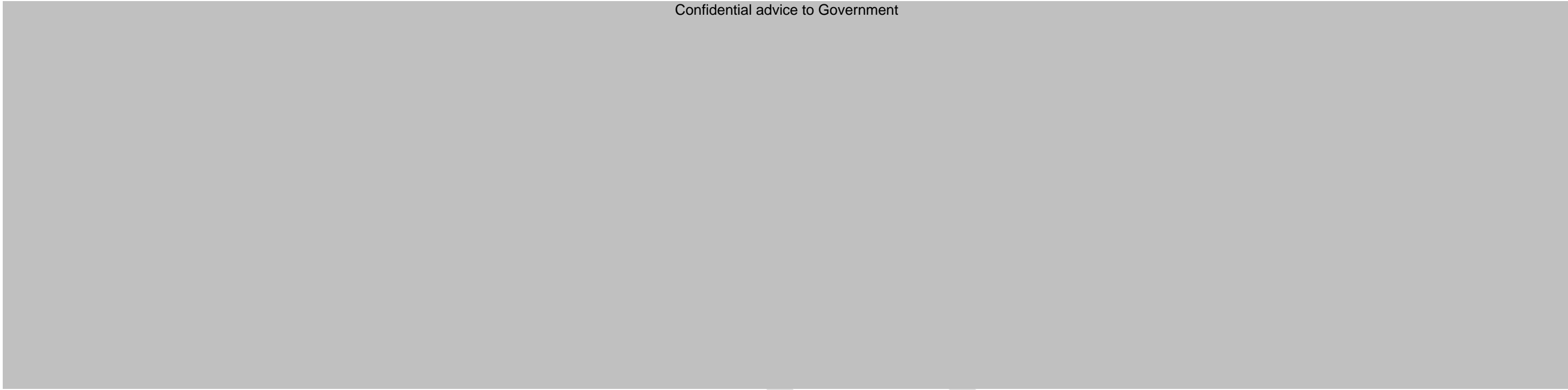
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Annex Three: Draft Auckland Consolidated Central Government work programme 1 January 2026 - 31 Dec 2026


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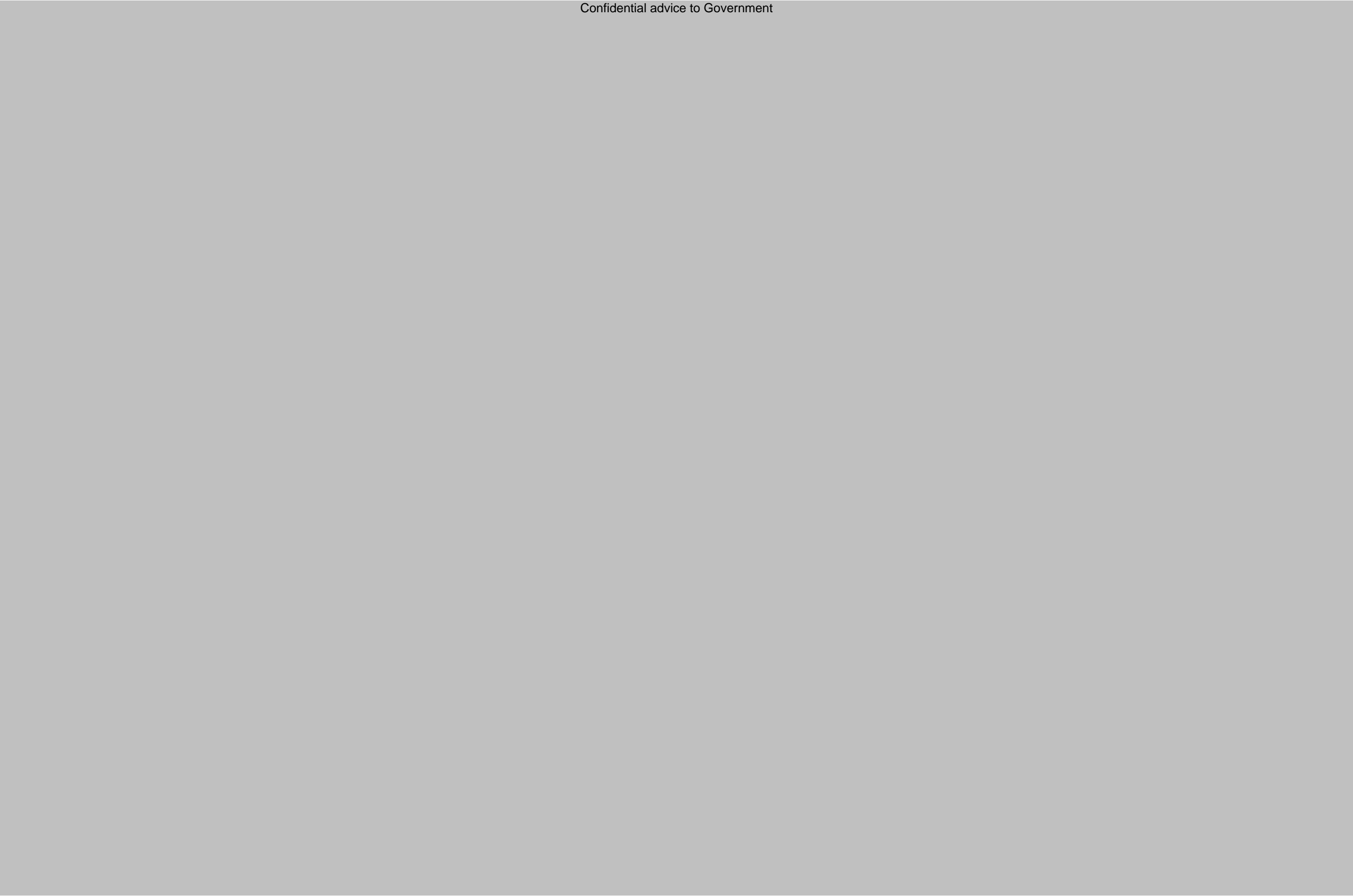


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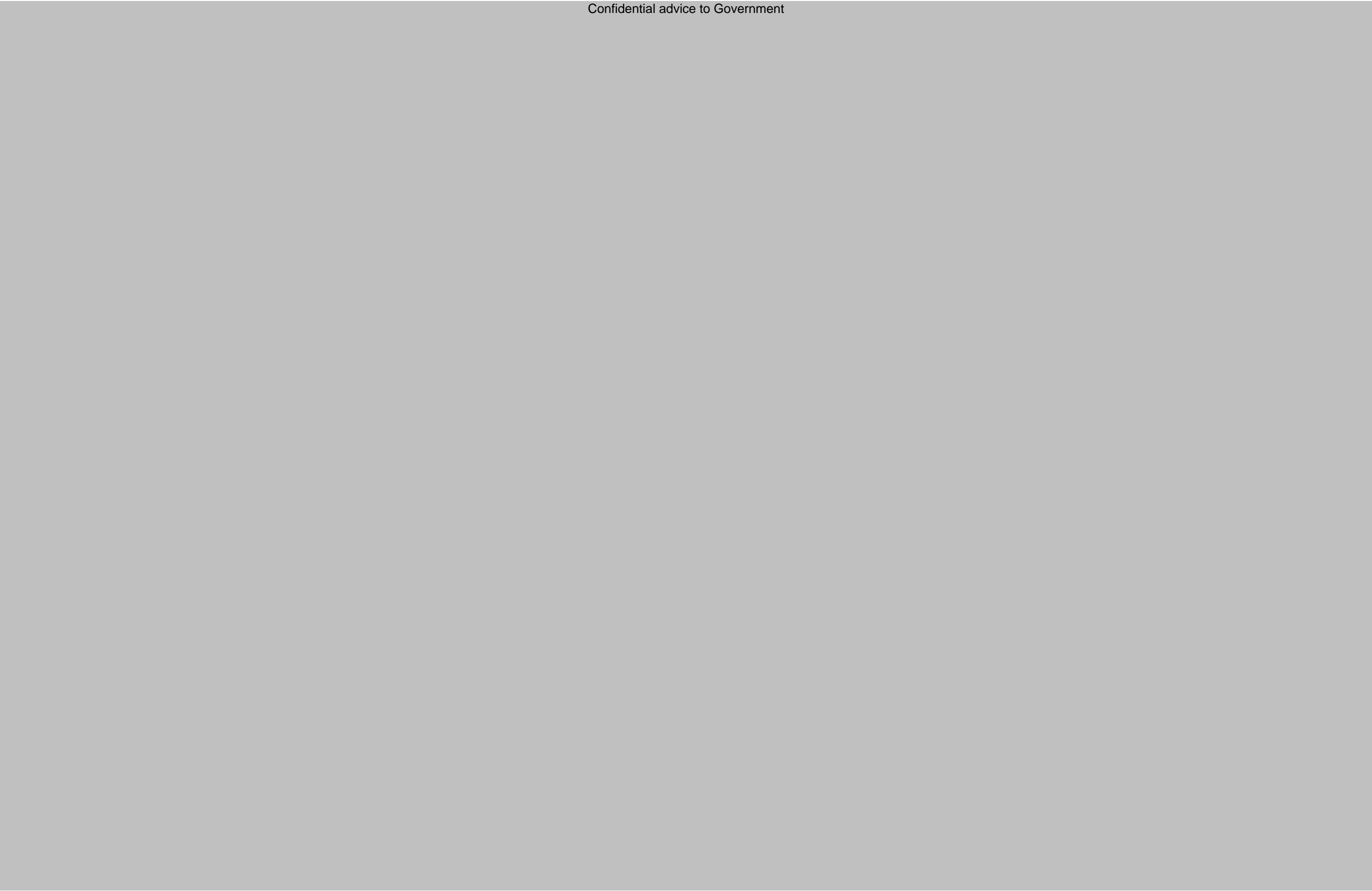
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