



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Cameron Brewer	Portfolio	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Title of Cabinet paper	Addressing misuse of the Personal Property Securities Register	Date to be published	22 June 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
April 2026	Addressing misuse of the Personal Property Securities Register	Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
29 April 2026	Addressing misuse of the Personal Property Securities Register ECO-26-MIN-0071 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of providing free and frank opinions to Government.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Addressing Misuse of the Personal Property Securities Register

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to a technical amendment to enable faster removal of entries on the Personal Property Securities Register (**PPSR**) that are intended to harass.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 This proposal is in line with the Government’s priority to deliver efficient, effective and responsive public services to all who need and use them.

Background

- 3 The PPSR is an online noticeboard where people can register their valid security interests in personal property through ‘financing statements’. For example, a car dealer may lodge a security interest in a car they have sold under a financing agreement, or a hire company may lodge one over a marquee they have rented out. The purpose is to make security interests transparent, reduce credit risk, lower the risk of goods being on-sold illegally, and determine priority over assets when businesses fail.
- 4 The PPSR is managed by the New Zealand Companies Office. Financing statements can be lodged 24/7 and appear immediately without verification by the Registrar. Immediate publication is an important feature of the register because it preserves the priority of security interests.

Policy problem

- 5 I am concerned that the PPSR is being misused to harass members of the public, officials and public figures. **Free and frank opinions**
 - 6 Although a financing statement has no legal effect unless it is underpinned by a valid security interest, it still appears on the PPSR, and people can assume the party named in the statement is a debtor even where they are not. False financing statements can be distressing especially for individuals who are also being harassed by other means.
 - 7 The Registrar’s powers to address this misuse are limited. After giving notice to the person who lodged a financing statement, the Registrar can remove a statement after 10 working days if the person cannot prove it is genuine. **Free and frank opinions**
- Free and frank opinions**

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Free and frank opinions

Free and frank opinions

I here are currently no penalties or offences in the Act.

Reducing the 10 working day period

- 9 To help with this matter, I propose to reduce the 10 working day period to five working days in the upcoming Regulatory Standards (Commercial Matters) Amendment Bill (**RSAB**). Reducing the 10 working day period is a quick, technical, and non-controversial amendment which could be implemented relatively quickly. It provides victims with faster relief by reducing how long vexatious statements remain on the PPSR. The change does not undermine natural justice, as five working days is sufficient for legitimate creditors to supply evidence that their statements are genuine.
- 10 I recognise this is not a complete solution to misuse of the PPSR. I may look at other measures to address this problem in a more fulsome review of the PPSA in the future.

Cost-of-living Implications

- 11 This proposal will have no impact on the cost of living.

Financial Implications

- 12 This proposal has no financial implications.

Legislative Implications

- 13 These changes will require a minor, technical amendment to the PPSA to reduce the 10 working day period. I propose that the amendment is progressed through the Regulatory Systems (Commercial Matters) Amendment Bill for which drafting instructions will be prepared this year. Initial policy decisions for this RSAB were made in September 2025 [ECO-25-MIN-0135].

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

- 14 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a Regulatory Impact Statement on the grounds that it has no or only minor economic, social, or environmental impacts.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 15 The Climate Implications of Policy (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this policy proposal, as the threshold for significance is not met.

Population implications and Human rights

- 16 There are no population or human rights implications.

Use of external resources

17 No external resources were used in the policy development process.

Consultation

18 The Ministry of Justice was consulted on this paper. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

Communications

19 Once the change is made the Companies Office will inform PPSR users of the change and update their website and guidance accordingly.

Proactive Release

20 This paper will be proactively released within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet. The proactive release will be subject to necessary redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that the Personal Property Securities Register (**PPSR**) is an online noticeboard where people can register their security interests in personal property;
- 2 **note** that the PPSR can be misused by people to harass members of the public;
- 3 **agree** to an amendment to the Personal Property Securities Act 1999 (**PPSA**) reducing the period before the Registrar can remove vexatious and frivolous statements from 10 working days to five working days;
- 4 **invite** the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to prepare a Bill to amend the PPSA to give effect to the recommendations;
- 5 **note** that I propose that the amendment be progressed through the Regulatory Systems (Commercial Matters) Amendment Bill; and
- 6 **authorise** the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to make decisions relating to the proposals in this Cabinet paper in a manner not inconsistent with the policy recommendations contained in the paper, including on any matters that might arise during the drafting process.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Cameron Brewer

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs