

Incoming government - we remain in the caretaker period

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We are still in the caretaker period while the new government is being formed.

To ensure continuity of government, the Governor-General has [reappointed the current ministry](#) to continue in a caretaker capacity, following agreement between Rt Hon Chris Hipkins and Mr Luxon.

Ministers will continue in their existing portfolios, except for Hon Mahuta who has now left office. Hon Grant Robertson has been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control. Existing delegations to Associate Ministers will continue to apply. Hon Jackson has resumed any responsibilities delegated to Hon Mahuta as Associate Minister for Māori Development.

We may be asked to provide information to support coalition negotiations.

These requests should all come through the Public Service Commission to our Chief Executive, Adrienne Meikle. If you are contacted directly by someone from a political party,



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please contact Adrienne immediately. Please do not attempt to deal with the request yourself.

If you receive a request from the Chief Executive's office to provide information, this should be a top priority as we only have 48 hours to respond.

There will continue to be a significant focus on budgets and expenditure across the public service.

We are testing our costs and priorities, ensuring that we make sensible savings that minimise the impact on the important services we provide.

As part of this, we are pausing all recruitment until we understand what the expectations will be and have developed a plan to meet them.

Engaging or extending contractors and consultants must be discussed and approved at Kaihautū level.

We are reviewing our discretionary spending. For example, travel, training and catering. Please talk to your leader before committing to any of this type of spending.

Kaihautū and our leaders will communicate as openly and transparently as possible, with evidence-based decisions to meet the new government's expectations and work to implement its policies.

Please remember our responsibilities as public servants to remain politically neutral, especially when our work is being discussed at work, publicly or on social media.

As people who work in the public service, we need to serve the elected government of the day and remember that we have obligations as part of that.

Please read up on [guidance available from Te Kawa Mataaho ↗](#) if you are not sure.

We will continue to keep you updated with updates as we can, likely once the formation of the government is announced and once we know who our new minister is.

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