

4 March 2026

Official information request regarding the Crown financial system
Our Ref: OIA-2526122

I refer to your official information request dated 3 February 2026 for the following:

A. Enforcement-Derived Revenue

Please provide all documents, policies, guidance, accounting instructions, or financial frameworks held by the Treasury that describe how the following monies are treated once received by the Crown:

- *Fines and infringement fees*
- *Court-ordered costs*
- *Penalties*
- *Enforcement or compliance recoveries*
- *Cost-recovery amounts associated with prosecutions or regulatory enforcement*

B. Accounts and Funds

Please identify:

1. *The specific accounts, funds, or ledgers into which enforcement-derived monies are paid; and*
2. *Whether such monies are:*
 - *Returned to the Consolidated Fund;*
 - *Used to offset appropriations;*
 - *Treated as Crown revenue; or*
 - *Applied to reduce the net operating cost of agencies.*

C. Budgeting, Forecasting, and Reconciliation

Please provide documents showing whether enforcement-derived revenue is:

- *Forecast or modelled during budget preparation;*
- *Reported as part of agency performance or financial reporting; and/or*
- *Reconciled against appropriations or baseline funding.*

D. Clawback, Offset, or Cost-Recovery Mechanisms

Please provide any documents describing mechanisms by which enforcement-related revenue is:

- Clawed back;
- Netted off;
- Offset against Vote funding; or
- Taken into account in future appropriations or baseline adjustments.

E. Inter-Agency Treatment

Please provide any guidance or correspondence between the Treasury and:

- The Ministry of Justice;
- Crown Law; or
- Enforcement agencies (including Police or regulatory bodies) that describes how enforcement-derived monies are to be treated for fiscal or accountability purposes.

Each part of your request has been addressed in turn.

A. Enforcement-Derived Revenue

Crown Law does not exercise statutory enforcement powers and does not receive revenue derived from enforcement activities, such as fines and infringement fees, penalties, enforcement or compliance recoveries, or cost-recovery amounts associated with prosecutions or regulatory enforcement.

Crown Law Office does, at times, receive court-awarded costs, which arise in the following limited circumstances:

- **Crown-funded litigation:**
Where Crown Law represents the Crown as a party to litigation and the court awards costs in favour of the Crown, any amounts received by Crown Law are recognised as other revenue in Crown Law's financial statements in accordance with applicable accounting standards. These amounts arise solely from court orders and do not result from the exercise of enforcement powers.
- **Litigation on behalf of other government agencies:**
Where Crown Law represents another government department and the court awards costs in favour of that department, Crown Law may receive those funds into a trust account in its capacity as legal representative. The funds are applied against the relevant legal matter and passed on to the client department. These amounts are not treated as revenue of Crown Law.

The treatment of revenue by departments is governed by the Public Finance Act 1989¹ and Treasury Instructions², which are publicly available.

Parts B to E

Parts B to E of your request are not applicable to Crown Law. We have therefore refused this portion of your request under s 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you seek is not held

¹ [Public Finance Act 1989 No 44 \(as at 13 November 2025\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

² [Treasury instructions | The Treasury New Zealand](#)

by this office, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department. We have outlined each part below:

- **B. Accounts and Funds:**
Crown Law does not exercise statutory enforcement powers and does not receive revenue derived from enforcement activities.
- **C. Budgeting, Forecasting, and Reconciliation:**
Crown Law does not budget enforcement-derived revenue, as Crown Law does not exercise statutory enforcement powers and does not receive revenue derived from enforcement activities.
- **D. Clawback, Offset, or Cost-Recovery Mechanisms:**
Crown Law does not exercise statutory enforcement powers and does not receive revenue derived from enforcement activities.
- **E. Inter-Agency Treatment:**
Crown Law does not exercise statutory enforcement powers and does not receive revenue derived from enforcement activities from any other government agencies.

Proactive release

Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

Right to seek an investigation and review

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oja@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Crown Law