

# Hon Chris Bishop

Minister of Housing  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Minister Responsible for RMA Reform  
Minister of Transport  
Leader of the House  
Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Sport and Recreation



Hon Matt Doocey  
Minister for Mental Health

21 MAY 2025

Dear Matt

**RE: Levies for alcohol related purposes 2025/26**

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2025 regarding the aggregate expenditure for the alcohol levy for 2025/26. I agree with your recommendation to maintain the level at \$16.62 million for 2025/26, as with 2024/25.

However, I remain concerned that there has been insufficient evaluation of the programmes it will fund and whether they deliver good value-for-money.

I wrote to you on 9 May 2024 requesting that a comprehensive review is undertaken by the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) to provide a value-for-money and return on investment analysis of the then levy funded initiatives. I also asked for the Ministry to rank the top five initiatives based on this analysis.

I appreciate that some of these programmes are new initiatives, and the Ministry is developing an assessment framework to evaluate the programmes. I expect the Ministry to provide robust analysis of programmes to support our decisions for 2026/27 and that this analysis is provided with sufficient time to allow feedback and iteration.

Based on the evidence provided, my preference is that funding from the 2025/26 levy is focused on frontline service programmes. I expect reductions to be made in areas where funding would go to central government FTE, marketing campaigns and research. For example, the \$1.5 million of funding considered for 'National and local health promotion and prevention' for 11 FTE to support delivery of the National Public Health Service's programmes.

I look forward to receiving the outcomes of the new assessment framework ahead of the next levy expenditure review.

Yours sincerely

  
Hon Chris Bishop  
**Associate Minister of Finance**

cc Hon Simeon Brown  
Minister of Health