Hon Simon Watts, Minister of Revenue

Information disclosure agreement between New Zealand Customs Service and Inland Revenue for border cash reports – Information Release

November 2026

List of documents included in this proactive release

#	Reference	Type	Title	Date
01	RPT 26/135 IR2026/184	Inland Revenue/ Customs Report	Update on Customs information disclosure agreement for border cash reports	30/07/2026
02	RPT 26/166 IR2026/253	Inland Revenue/ Customs Report	Information disclosure agreement between Customs and Inland Revenue: Consultation with the Privacy Commissioner	25/08/2026
03	n/a	Letter	Consultation: Information disclosure agreement under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018	02/09/2026
04	n/a	Letter	Consultation under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018	09/09/2026
05	RPT 26/191 IR2026/282	Inland Revenue/ Customs Report	Information disclosure agreement between Customs and Inland Revenue: The agreement is ready for approval	21/09/2026

Additional information

The information disclosure agreement is not included in this information release as it is publicly available:

- Information Disclosure Agreement for the Disclosure of Information between New Zealand Customs Service and Inland Revenue

Information withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply are identified.

Where information is withheld, no public interest was identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Sections of the Act under which information was withheld:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people

18(c)(i) that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment

Availability

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Tax policy report

NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS SERVICE TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

Inland Revenue Te Tari Taake

Update on Customs information disclosure agreement for border cash reports

Date	30 July 2026	**Priority**	Medium
Security level	In Confidence	**Report number**	RPT 26/135 IR2026/184

Action sought		**Deadline**
Minister of Revenue	**Agree** to the recommendation	13 August 2026
Minister of Customs	**Agree** to the recommendation	13 August 2026

Purpose

This report provides an update on the progress of finalising an information disclosure agreement (a section 316 agreement) with the New Zealand Customs Service for the sharing of border cash reports (the Agreement).

The Agreement would enable Customs to disclose information to Inland Revenue about a person traveling across the border while carrying a significant amount of cash and/or stored value instruments (of NZ$10,000 or more), whether carried by a person across the border or moved unaccompanied. This information would support Inland Revenue to maintain the integrity of the tax system and address tax evasion.

Inland Revenue contact for phone discussion, if required			
Name	**Position**	**Phone number**	**First contact**
Carolyn Elliott	Policy Lead	s 9(2)(a)	☐
Maria Deligiannis	Policy Advisor	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Customs contact for phone discussion, if required			
Alexandra Jackson	Policy Manager	s 9(2)(a)	
Emma McLachlan	Policy Advisor	s 9(2)(a)	✓

Update on Customs information disclosure agreement for border cash reports

Background

1 Inland Revenue collects information in various ways for the administration of the tax system. This can include information provided to Inland Revenue that was originally collected by other government agencies under their statutory rules. Rather than Inland Revenue independently collecting the same information, information already held by the other agency is provided to Inland Revenue for administrative efficiency and to deliver broader benefits to New Zealanders.

2 These information sharing rules support several of Inland Revenue's priorities and outcomes, including improved tax compliance, enhanced intelligence analysis, and a greater contribution to cross-agency efforts to disrupt transnational, serious and organised crime.

3 Improved information sharing mechanisms sits within Inland Revenue's broader organised crime and information sharing work programme. Following an earlier briefing note that outlined Inland Revenue's role in disrupting organised crime (BN2026/149 refers), the Agreement with the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) for border cash reports (BCRs) was identified as a short- to medium-term information sharing initiative that could be progressed prior to the 2026 General Election. Work on the Agreement commenced from late 2025.

4 Inland Revenue and Customs currently share some information under the Targeting Serious Crime Approved Information Sharing Agreement (TSC AISA). However, the TSC AISA is focused on sharing information to support the detection, prevention, investigation or providing evidence of serious crime.[1]

5 We recommend Ministers agree to the development of a separate Customs information disclosure agreement[2] to enable BCR information to be shared for tax administration purposes, including to identify potential tax evasion and fraud, support debt recovery, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.

6 The Customs information disclosure agreement for BCRs is separate from Inland Revenue's own new ministerial agreement rules. These rules enable one-way shares from Inland Revenue to other agencies.

Problem

7 Inland Revenue has limited visibility on cash and/or stored value instruments (cash) moving across the border (either by individuals carrying significant amounts of cash or unaccompanied cash that a person is sending out of New Zealand). Currently, Customs can disclose BCR information to Inland Revenue on a case-by-case basis on request, however these disclosures are rare. An established mechanism would enable routine sharing of BCR information for tax administration purposes.

8 This limited visibility creates a gap in Inland Revenue's ability to identify and respond to risks associated with undeclared or unexplained cash movements, particularly when cash is physically transported across the border, which may lead to potential income suppression, undeclared offshore income, and other tax risks.

[1] An offence punishable by imprisonment of four years or more.

[2] Under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018.

What is Customs' border cash reporting regime

9 Customs administers a border cash reporting regime under New Zealand's anti–money laundering and countering financing of terrorism settings. The regime is intended to provide visibility over the physical movement of significant amounts of cash and stored value instruments (SVIs) into and out of New Zealand, and to support enforcement and intelligence activities at the border.[3]

10 BCRs must be completed by individuals carrying cash and/or SVIs of NZ$10,000 or more (or the foreign equivalent) into or out of New Zealand, whether carried by a person across the border or sent as unaccompanied cash. This requirement applies whether the person is transporting the cash on their own behalf or on behalf of another person. It is not intended to prohibit the movement of large amounts of cash; rather, it provides transparency about those movements.

11 For the purposes of BCR, "cash" is broadly defined and includes physical currency (notes and coins) as well as bearer negotiable instruments, such as traveller's cheques and other instruments that can be readily converted into cash. Additionally, SVI's include items that hold or represent monetary value that can be redeemed for cash, including vouchers, casino chips, gold, silver, other precious metals, and precious stones.[4]

12 The timing for completing a BCR depends on how the cash and SVIs are moved. For accompanied cash or SVIs entering or leaving New Zealand, the report must be provided to Customs at the border as part of arrival or departure processes. For unaccompanied cash and SVIs leaving New Zealand, the report must be provided before these depart. For unaccompanied cash and SVIs arriving in New Zealand, the report must be provided before, or as soon as practicable after, these are received.

13 Individuals subject to the reporting requirements must provide information about the amount of cash being transported, as well as its origin and intended use. Non-compliance includes failing to declare or report cash, providing false or misleading information, or otherwise breaching the reporting requirements.

14 If individuals do not comply, Customs has powers to investigate and take enforcement action. This may result in the detention or seizure of cash, and the application of penalties such as fines or imprisonment.[5]

15 BCRs form part of Customs' broader intelligence and enforcement functions. Customs receives approximately 6,000 to 7,000 reports each year, including both compliant disclosures and instances of non-compliance. This information contributes to Customs' understanding of risks associated with the cross-border movement of cash, including potential links to illicit activity.

Benefits to Inland Revenue of obtaining BCR information

16 Consistent access to BCR information would improve Inland Revenue's visibility of significant cross-border cash movements and support more effective risk assessment, compliance interventions, and investigations. This would strengthen Inland Revenue's intelligence-led compliance approach by helping identify undeclared income, disrupt serious tax offending, recover outstanding tax liabilities, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.

[3] Currently, completed BCRs are collected by Customs and provided to Police for intelligence and enforcement purposes.

[4] Debit and credit cards are excluded.

[5] Penalties for non-compliance include, for individuals, up to three months' imprisonment, a fine of up to $10,000, or both; and, for body corporates, a fine of up to $50,000.

17 In practical terms, information supplied under the Agreement would support key compliance objectives by enabling Inland Revenue to:

- identify customers whose cross-border cash movements may indicate undeclared income or other non-compliant behaviour
- combine BCR information with existing Inland Revenue data to improve risk assessment and prioritisation
- generate investigative leads and target compliance interventions more effectively
- identify and recover outstanding tax liabilities, and
- improve the understanding of emerging compliance risks, cash-based offending, organised crime and money laundering behaviours.

Implementation and timeframes

18 Alongside finalising the Agreement, we are progressing implementation work, including establishing data transfer arrangements, governance settings, and operational processes to support the receipt, management, and use of information disclosed under the Agreement.

19 The proposal would use existing government information-sharing arrangements to provide regular BCR information to Inland Revenue. Inland Revenue would analyse the information alongside its existing database to identify compliance risks, revenue opportunities and intelligence insights. Any compliance activity would follow existing Inland Revenue processes.

20 At this stage, we do not expect to seek additional funding to implement the Agreement. Any costs associated with implementation are expected to be absorbed within existing baselines, subject to internal confirmation.

Comments from the Privacy Commissioner

Initial draft Agreement

21 An initial draft Agreement has been referred to the Privacy Commissioner for comment. We will work with the Privacy Commissioner to identify and address any privacy issues and concerns as part of preparing a final draft Agreement.

22 Depending on the feedback, we may also undertake targeted engagement with relevant stakeholders to resolve any outstanding issues before the Agreement is finalised.

Final draft Agreement

23 We intend to report back to Ministers in September 2026 with a final draft Agreement for Ministers' consideration.

24 Subject to Ministers' agreement, Ministers will then formally refer the final draft Agreement to the Privacy Commissioner for review and comment in accordance with section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018. This is because Ministers are required to have regard to those comments before entering into the Agreement.

Timeframes

25 Once the Privacy Commissioner has provided their formal comments to Ministers for formal consideration, the final draft Agreement will be updated (where required), for Ministers to approve and sign in September 2026.

26 Significant milestones include:

- Mid- to late August 2026: Collate Privacy Commissioner feedback and finalise report, the Agreement and the Privacy Impact Assessment.
- Late August to mid-September 2026: Ministers review and sign the Agreement.
- Early November: Customs begins disclosing BCR information to Inland Revenue.

Risk to delivery

27 At this stage, no significant issues have been identified that are expected to prevent delivery. However, the expected timeline means there is limited contingency if other issues (such as legal, privacy or operational matters) take longer to resolve than anticipated. Implementation is dependent on Customs information disclosure agreement process and internal prioritisation, which may affect agreed timelines.

28 We will update Ministers if unexpected issues arise that mean implementation of the Agreement will be delayed until after the 2026 General Election.

Next steps

29 We will continue to work with the Privacy Commissioner to seek feedback on the initial draft Agreement and will update the Agreement in response to that feedback.

30 By September we will report to Ministers with a final draft Agreement, supporting documentation, and recommendations for next steps.

31 Subject to ministerial agreement on the final draft Agreement, the Minister of Customs and Minister of Revenue will then formally refer the draft Agreement to the Privacy Commissioner for formal consultation in accordance with the requirements under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act, requesting that the Privacy Commissioner review the proposed Agreement and provide feedback for Ministers' consideration.

32 Once the Privacy Commissioner has provided their formal comments to Ministers, then Ministers will formally consider these comments before deciding whether to approve and sign the Agreement.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

1	**Agree** for officials to develop a final draft information disclosure agreement for the disclosure of border cash reports.

Agree / Disagree	Agree / Disagree
Minister of Customs	*Minister of Revenue*

2	**Note**, if you agree to recommendation 1, officials will report back by the end of September 2026 with a final draft information disclosure agreement for your consideration.

Carolyn Elliott
Policy Lead
Policy | Inland Revenue

Lauren McIntosh
Group Manager Policy, Legal, and Strategy
New Zealand Customs Service

Hon Simon Watts
Minister of Revenue
/ /2026

Hon Casey Costello
Minister of Customs
/ /2026

NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS SERVICE
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA

Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

25 August 2026

RPT 26/166
IR2026/253

Minister of Customs

Minister of Revenue

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE: CONSULTATION WITH THE PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

Key points

- Officials recommend that the Ministers of Customs and Revenue agree in principle, subject to consultation with the Privacy Commissioner, to enter into an agreement made under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (the Act) to authorise the NZ Customs Service to disclose border cash report (BCR) information to Inland Revenue.

  Ministerial Update Report, 5 August 2026, RPT 26/135 (Customs) and IR2026/184 is attached for your reference and provides full details.

- The information disclosed under the proposed information disclosure agreement (Proposed Agreement) will provide Inland Revenue consistent access to BCR information and improve its visibility of significant cross-border cash and /or stored value instrument movements and support more effective risk assessment, compliance interventions, and investigations. This would strengthen Inland Revenue's intelligence-led compliance approach by helping identify undeclared income, disrupt serious tax offending, recover outstanding tax liabilities, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.

- The information to be disclosed under the Proposed Agreement may currently be disclosed by Customs to Inland Revenue when the disclosure of the information is necessary to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law under the exception in Information Privacy Principle 11(1)(e)(i) of the Privacy Act 2020. In the absence of a system or information-sharing agreement that enables automatic disclosure, decisions rely on the exercise of discretion at the border, making the process administratively more difficult.

- The Proposed Agreement would enable the sharing of both compliant and non-compliant BCR reporting, providing Inland Revenue with more complete information to support its tax compliance functions. The Proposed Agreement will improve administrative efficiency and provide a transparent means for the regular disclosure of the BCR information under standardised protections for security and the privacy of individuals.

- The Proposed Agreement is attached for you to consider. Officials advise that the Proposed Agreement complies with the requirements of the Act.

- Before entering into an agreement, Ministers must formally consult with the Privacy Commissioner. We recommend that the Minister of Customs, with the agreement of the Minister of Revenue, signs the attached letter to initiate this consultation.

  Note. The Proposed Agreement and Privacy Impact Assessment have already been referred to the Privacy Commissioner's Office for informal feedback. The office replied that it didn't have any substantive feedback and was comfortable with the privacy analysis.

- If the Privacy Commissioner replies to the formal consultation process and remains comfortable with the Proposed Agreement as is, officials advise the Proposed Agreement can be signed by both the Minister of Customs and the Minister of Revenue to put the Proposed Agreement into effect.

- Should the Privacy Commissioner have additional comments, officials will address those comments before making a further recommendation for the Proposed Agreement to be signed.

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

1 **note** that the Customs and Excise Act 2018 facilitates the disclosure of information from Customs to another government agency under the terms of a written agreement made between the Minister of Customs and the Minister responsible for the accessing agency.

Noted/Please Discuss *Noted/Please Discuss*

Minister of Customs *Minister of Revenue*

2 **agree** that a written agreement be made under the Customs and Excise Act 2018, in accordance with which Customs may make ongoing disclosures of information collected about border cash (including bearer negotiable and stored value instruments) movements to Inland Revenue.

Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss *Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss*

Minister of Customs *Minister of Revenue*

3 **note** officials' advice that the Proposed Agreement attached to this report addresses the matters that Ministers are required to take into account under the Customs and Excise Act 2018 before entering into an information disclosure agreement.

Noted/Please Discuss *Noted/Please Discuss*

Minister of Customs *Minister of Revenue*

4 **agree** that the Minister of Customs signs the attached letter to the Privacy Commissioner, on behalf of the Minister of Revenue, to consult him on the Proposed Agreement as required by the Customs and Excise Act 2018.

Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss *Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss*

Minister of Customs *Minister of Revenue*

6. **agree** that if the Privacy Commissioner has no further comment in respect of the Proposed Agreement or its privacy safeguards, it can be signed by the Ministers of Customs and Revenue to put it into effect.

Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss *Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss*

Minister of Customs *Minister of Revenue*

s 9(2)(a)

Lauren McIntosh

Acting DCE Policy Legal & Strategy

For Comptroller of Customs

s 9(2)(a)

Policy Director

For Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Minister of Customs

/ /2026

Minister of Revenue

/ /2026

NZ Customs Service

Primary contact:	Lauren McIntosh Group Manager Policy	s 9(2)(a)
Secondary contact:	Mathew Green Manager Operations, Investigations	s 9(2)(a)

Inland Revenue

Primary contact:	Kerryn McInosh-Watt Director, Policy	s 9(2)(a)
Secondary contact:	Maria Deligiannis Policy Advisor, Policy	s 9(2)(a)

ANALYSIS

Proposal for an information disclosure agreement under the Act

1. The Customs and Excise Act 2018 (the Act) contains a legislative framework for the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) to facilitate the disclosure of information to other government agencies. The objectives are to improve the delivery of government services through information disclosure, increase transparency to the public on what Customs' information is used by other agencies and for what purpose, and provide protections for sensitive personal, commercial and operational information when it is disclosed. Agreements must be published on Customs' and the accessing agency's websites.

2. Customs and Inland Revenue (IR) officials recommend that an information disclosure agreement between Customs and IR be made under the Act. It would enable the disclosure by Customs to IR of specific details recorded on Border Cash Reports (BCRs). An information disclosure agreement made under the Act will improve administrative efficiency and provide a transparent means for the regular disclosure of such information under mutually agreed standard protections for security and the privacy of individuals.

3. The information to be disclosed will provide IR consistent access to BCR information and improve its visibility of significant cross-border cash movements and support more effective risk assessment, compliance interventions, and investigations. This would strengthen IR's intelligence-led compliance approach by helping identify undeclared income, disrupt serious tax offending, recover outstanding tax liabilities, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.

4. Officials have developed a proposed information disclosure agreement (Proposed Agreement), which is attached to this report. The Proposed Agreement defines what information will be disclosed to IR and the administrative and security arrangements to protect personal information.

Responsible Ministers must be satisfied about certain specified matters

5. Section 316(4) of the Act requires that, before entering into a written agreement for disclosure of information, the responsible Ministers must be satisfied that:

    5.1 disclosure of the information is reasonable and practical

    5.2 there are adequate safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals, including that the proposed compliance and audit requirements for the use, disclosure, and retention of the information are sufficient; and

    5.3 the agreement will include appropriate procedures for the disclosure and retention of the information.

Reasonable and practical

6. Customs administers a border cash reporting regime under New Zealand's anti–money laundering and countering financing of terrorism settings. The regime is intended to provide visibility over the physical movement of significant amounts of cash and stored value instruments (SVIs) into and out of New Zealand. Customs lawfully collects the information at the point an individual completes a BCR.

7. The BCR information to be shared is stored within the Customs database and assists Customs to manage border risk. It can be readily extracted into a report for the purposes of the Proposed Agreement.

8. Officials have identified the necessary BCR information fields that will assist IR to carry out its functions. The data fields are listed in Annex 1 of the attached Proposed Agreement.

Safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals, and compliance and audit requirements

9. The Proposed Agreement limits access to specified IR staff authorised under the schedule. The risks identified in the privacy impact assessment are considered low and there are adequate mitigations in place through the disclosure, storage and retention procedures.

10. Use of the BCR information disclosed to IR under the Proposed Agreement is limited to that which relates to, or is in support of, the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of offences, or the protection of public revenue.

11. BCR information disclosed to IR under the Proposed Agreement may only be disclosed to another agency in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982, Privacy Act 2020 or authorised or permitted for under the Tax Administration Act 1994 and any other applicable law.

12. The Proposed Agreement provides for the chief executives of Customs and IR to establish regular audits, including at the occurrence of a privacy breach or security incident.

Appropriate procedures for the disclosure and retention of information

13. s 18(c)(i) [redacted]

14. IR will retain the BCR information disclosed for a period relevant to its use or up to ten years for the functions outlined in section 6 of the Proposed Areement.

15. Officials consider that the Proposed Agreement contains adequate procedures for the access, use, disclosure and retention of BCR information. The procedures are in accordance with the government's Protective Security Requirements (including the New Zealand Information Security Manual), the Privacy Act 2020 and the Public Records Act 2005.

Matters an information disclosure agreement must address

16. Section 316(4) of the Act requires that an information disclosure agreement must specify certain matters. The table below sets out what those matters are and references the section(s) of the Proposed Agreement that meet that requirement.

Matter that must be specified	Section reference in the draft agreement attached to this report
The particular type or class of information that may be accessed	4 (and at Annex 1, clause 2.1 of the TSR)

Matter that must be specified	Section reference in the draft agreement attached to this report
The particular purpose or purposes for which the information is accessed	5
The particular function being, or to be, carried out by the government agency for which the information is required	6
How the information is to be used by the government agency to assist with the carrying out of those functions	7
The form in which the information is to be disclosed	8 (and at Annex 1, clause 4.1 of the TSR)
The positions or designations of the persons in the government agency to whom the information may be disclosed	9 (and at Annex 1, clause 6 of the TSR)
The safeguards that are to be applied for protecting personal information or commercially sensitive information that is to be disclosed	8, 10 (and at Annex 1, clause 5 of the TSR)
The requirements relating to storage and disposal of the disclosed information	11 (and at Annex 1, clause 5.2 of the TSR)
The circumstances (if any) in which the information may be disclosed by the government agency to another agency, and how the disclosure may be made	12
The requirements for reviewing the agreement	13

17. Officials advise that the Proposed Agreement between Customs and IR meets the requirements that Ministers are required to take into account under the Act before entering into a written information disclosure agreement.

Consultation with the Privacy Commissioner

18. Section 316(4)(b) of the Act requires the responsible Ministers, before entering into a written information disclosure agreement, to consult the Privacy Commissioner and have regard to any comments received from the Privacy Commissioner.

19. Officials have engaged with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC) on an informal basis with respect to the Proposed Agreement and the Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA). Written feedback was received from OPC stating that it didn't have any substantive feedback and was comfortable with the privacy analysis.

20. The informal feedback provided by the OPC does not discharge the responsibility of Ministers under the Act to consult with the Privacy Commissioner. If you are satisfied with officials' advice in this report on the content of the Proposed Agreement, we recommend that you now formally consult the Privacy Commissioner. If you both agree, a letter to the Privacy Commissioner is attached to this report for the Minister of Customs to sign on behalf of both Ministers.

Next steps

21. When comments have been received back from the Privacy Commissioner, officials will review those comments and update the Proposed Agreement as necessary before making a formal recommendation that you both sign the revised Proposed Agreement to bring it into effect. We anticipate that this process will take approximately two weeks.

22. If the Privacy Commissioner has no comment, officials will advise that the Proposed Agreement you have reviewed can be signed. We expect this could occur in mid-September 2026.

ENDS

Hon Casey Costello

Minister of Customs
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Immigration
Associate Minister of Police

Michael Webster
Privacy Commissioner
PO Box 10094
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6143

Dear Micheal

Consultation: Information disclosure agreement under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018

I am writing to consult you on a written agreement that the Minister of Revenue and I propose to make under the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (the Act) to permit the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) to disclose border cash report (BCR) information on a regular basis to Inland Revenue.

Please find enclosed the proposed Information Disclosure Agreement (Proposed Agreement) and a Privacy Impact Assessment.

An earlier draft of the Proposed Agreement and the Privacy Impact Assessment was provided to your office for informal review. Your office responded that it didn't have any substantive feedback and was comfortable with the privacy analysis. We now request to formally consult with you as required by the Act.

Section 316 of the Act authorises the chief executive of Customs to disclose information to a chief executive of a government agency to assist that agency to carry out its functions under the terms of a written agreement made between the Minister of Customs and the Minister responsible for the agency requesting the disclosure. Before the Ministers can enter into any such agreement the Privacy Commissioner must be consulted, and the Ministers must have regard to any comments received.

The Proposed Agreement sets out the terms on which Customs will disclose information to Inland Revenue about a person travelling across the border while carrying a significant amount of cash and/or stored value instruments (of NZ$10,000 or more), whether carried by a person across the border or moved unaccompanied.

The Proposed Agreement will provide Inland Revenue consistent access to BCR information, improve its visibility of significant cross-border cash movements and/or stored value instruments, and support more effective risk assessment, compliance interventions, and investigations. This would strengthen Inland Revenue's intelligence-led compliance approach by helping identify undeclared income, disrupt

serious tax offending, recover outstanding tax liabilities, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.

Currently, Customs does not regularly or systematically disclose information about border cash movements at the border to Inland Revenue. This is due to the need to consider each disclosure on a case-by-case basis which is administratively burdensome.

We look forward to receiving your comments on the Proposed Agreement.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

Hon Casey Costello
Minister of Customs

Encl. Proposed Information Disclosure Agreement with Inland Revenue
Privacy Impact Assessment

Privacy Commissioner
Te Mana Mātāpono Matatapu

Office of the Privacy Commissioner
Level 11, 215 Lambton Quay
Wellington, New Zealand
privacy.org.nz

9 September 2026

Hon Casey Costello
Minister of Customs

Sent by email

Care of: C.Costello@ministers.govt.nz
cc s 9(2)(a)
cc s 9(2)(a)
cc s 9(2)(a)

Dear Minister

Consultation under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018

You and the Minister of Revenue have consulted with me under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act (the Act) on a proposed Information Disclosure Agreement between Customs and Inland Revenue. The Agreement intends to facilitate the disclosure of information for the purpose of assisting Inland Revenue to carry out its functions related to, or involving:

a. The prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of offences in relation to tax evasion and tax fraud; and
b. The protection of public revenue, including through the protection of the integrity of the tax system, and the assessment, collection, and recovery of tax revenue (including tax debt).

I note that the following feedback was provided to Customs and Inland Revenue officials during an initial operational review of the draft Agreement. I would like to thank your officials for the constructive way in which they worked with my Office and have no further comments or feedback on the draft Agreement.

Comments on the Agreement

General comments

As part of the consultation on the draft Agreement, your officials provided my Office with a Privacy and Ethics Impact Assessment. The Assessment contained a robust analysis of the privacy principles, and a good amount of detail on how the Parties will comply with these in the context of the Agreement.

The draft Agreement, along with the two Annexes to the Agreement, includes the required information specified in section 316(5) of the Act. It is encouraging to see that your officials have included a number of privacy protective safeguards that my Office would expect to see in an information disclosure agreement such as the one proposed.

I hope that these comments assist in finalising approval of the proposed Agreement.

Yours sincerely

s 9(2)(a)

Michael Webster CVO
Privacy Commissioner

21 September 2026

RPT 26/191
IR2026/282

Minister of Customs

Minister of Revenue

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE: THE AGREEMENT IS READY FOR APPROVAL

Key points

- In August 2026, you agreed to Customs and Inland Revenue entering into a written agreement under section 316 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 (the Act) in which Customs will make ongoing disclosures of information collected about border cash (including bearer negotiable and stored value instruments) movements to Inland Revenue.
- The information will provide Inland Revenue consistent access to border cash information and improve its visibility of significant cross-border cash and /or stored value instrument movements and support more effective risk assessment, compliance interventions, and investigations. This would strengthen Inland Revenue's intelligence-led compliance approach by helping identify undeclared income, disrupt serious tax offending, recover outstanding tax liabilities, and protect the integrity of the tax system and public revenue.
- Before entering into the agreement under the Act, the relevant Ministers must formally consult with the Privacy Commissioner. On 9 September, the Privacy Commissioner responded in writing confirming the proposed agreement has the required information specified within section 316 (5) of the Act.
- As part of the statutory process for entering into an information disclosure agreement, Ministers are required to be satisfied that:
    - disclosure of the information is reasonable and practical; and
    - there are adequate safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals, including that the proposed compliance and audit requirements for the use, disclosure, and retention of the information are sufficient; and
    - the agreement will include appropriate procedures for the disclosure and retention of the information.
- Officials confirm that the agreement satisfies these requirements.

Recommendation

- Officials recommend that you now sign the agreement and put it into effect.

Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss

Minister of Customs

s 9(2)(a)

Group Manager Policy

For Comptroller of Customs

Agreed/Disagreed/Please Discuss

Minister of Revenue

s 9(2)(a)

Policy Director

For Commissioner of Inland Revenue

Minister of Customs

/ /2026

Minister of Revenue

/ /2026