



Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor  
Kaitohutohu Mātanga Pūtaiao Matua ki te Pirimia

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**Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard** FRSNZ, HonFRSC  
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27 November 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment. Amidst the noise and haste, I thought I would just send a brief note to summarise our current work programme, which we are of course ready to modify as required. My term in this role finishes on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, and it would be great to meet in person to clarify your priorities.

We have two reports that were completed prior to the election which we hope to release on our website by December 15th. One is on youth resilience to polluted information (a catch all term incorporating mis-, dis-, and mal-information). The other is on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. We have shared these in confidence with relevant officials and are forwarding the reports to relevant Ministers (and copying your office) this week. We will also alert opposition spokespeople shortly ahead of their release. For the AI report, in particular, there is an opportunity for both an in-person and an AI-supported on-line launch event in the New Year, if this is of interest.

In terms of ongoing work, we continue to work on food waste, with a third report close to completion and a final report planned for next year (see: [Food rescue, food waste \(pmcsa.ac.nz\)](http://pmcsa.ac.nz)). We will write to relevant Ministers about this work when the third report is finalised and copy your office.

I met briefly with Hon Judith Collins at a function recently and expressed my enthusiasm to support work in the GE space, building on earlier briefings to the PM (see: [Gene editing \(pmcsa.ac.nz\)](http://pmcsa.ac.nz)). We are also keen to expand our work in AI, and are scoping out other possibilities for your consideration. In particular, in the environmental space, there is significant potential for using AI to increase efficiency and improve conservation outcomes.

I have a small team of five, and collaborate extensively with researchers across the sector to deliver our advice. The way I worked with previous Prime Ministers was to have commissioned projects with an agreed Terms of Reference, leaving a little bandwidth to respond to anything urgent (e.g. informal support on setting the methane target in the Carbon Zero Act, a rapid evidence synthesis to support recovery from the mosque shooting, urgent participation in the immediate aftermath of the Whakaari eruption, and support for the response to COVID-19).

In quieter times, this bandwidth is filled by our wider programme, which has included supporting the Minister of RSI and the MBIE team in the Future Pathways process to reform our Research, Science

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and Innovation sector; some work at the science-policy interface with DPMC; and our intern programme (see: [Our interns and fellows | Office of the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor \(pmcsa.ac.nz\)](https://pmcsa.ac.nz)).

To date, I have typically caught up with the PM in person every few weeks, with informal contact as required by email or phone. My number is <sup>9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> [REDACTED]. My direct emails are: pmcsa@auckland.ac.nz or, for restricted material, <sup>9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> [REDACTED]

I look forward to working with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Juliet Gerrard*

Cc Ruth Fairhall, DPMC

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# Cabinet Office

## Memo

1 December 2023

**To** Prime Minister

**From** Diana Hawker, Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet

**Subject** **Responsibilities of the Associate Minister of Health (Hon Casey Costello)**

### Background

- 1 Your approval is sought to the proposed delegations to the new Associate Minister of Health (Hon Casey Costello), as outlined in the attached draft letter of delegation from Hon Dr Shane Reti to Ms Costello.
- 2 We understand Dr Reti would like to progress this particular delegation as soon as possible.
- 3 Subject to your approval to these responsibilities, the letter of delegation can be finalised, signed by Dr Reti and sent to Ms Costello. At that point the delegation will become operational. We will then include the substance of the delegation on DPMC's website (thereby putting it in the public domain). Once all delegations to all Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries have been finalised and approved, they will be included in a new *Schedule of Responsibilities Delegated to Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries* for presentation to the House.

### Proposed Health delegation

- 4 Hon Dr Shane Reti proposes to delegate the following responsibilities to Ms Costello:
  - 4.1 All matters within the Health portfolio relating to:
    - 4.1.1 Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990;
    - 4.1.2 Vaping;
    - 4.1.3 Smokeless tobacco;
    - 4.1.4 Oral nicotine;
  - 4.2 Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.
- 5 We understand that your Office and the Policy Advisory Group (Ben McBride) have been consulted.

**Recommendations**

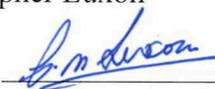
- 6 I recommend that you:
  - 6.1 agree to the proposed delegation to the Associate Minister of Health (Hon Casey Costello), as outlined in the attached letter;
  - 6.2 note that a summary of these responsibilities will be posted on DPMC's website, as soon as they are approved and finalised, and thereby will be publicly accessible;
  - 6.3 note that once all delegations have been approved by you, and finalised and sent to the Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries, a new *Schedule of Responsibilities Delegated to Associate Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries* will be prepared for Mr Bishop (as Leader of the House) to present to the House;
  - 6.4 we will liaise with your Chief of Staff on the process for approving all other delegations to Associate Ministers and Under-Secretaries.



Diana Hawker  
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet

YES / NO / DISCUSS

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister 

Date: 02 / 12 / 23

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**Distribution:**  
Cameron Burrows, PMO



# Cabinet Office

## Memo

13 December 2023

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**To** Prime Minister

**From** Diana Hawker, Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet

**Subject** **Responsibilities of the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac)  
(Hon David Seymour)**

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- 1 Your approval is sought to the proposed delegations to the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac) (Hon David Seymour), as outlined in the attached letter from Hon Dr Shane Reti to Mr Seymour.
- 2 Dr Reti proposes to delegate to Mr Seymour the following functions and responsibilities of the Health portfolio:
  - 2.1 Pharmac:
    - 2.1.1 the entity and its responsibilities;
    - 2.1.2 monitoring of Pharmac through the Ministry of Health;
    - 2.1.3 implementation of any review recommendations;
  - 2.2 Medsafe;
  - 2.3 Medicines Strategy;
  - 2.4 Any proposed amendments to the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975 in relation to pseudoephedrine;
  - 2.5 Appointments relating to:
    - 2.5.1 Pharmac;
    - 2.5.2 Pharmacy Council;
    - 2.5.3 Medicines Adverse Reactions Committee;
    - 2.5.4 Medicines Assessment Advisory Committee;
    - 2.5.5 Medicines Classification Committee;
    - 2.5.6 Medicines Review Committee;

2.5.7 Psychoactive Substances Expert Advisory Committee;

2.5.8 End of Life Choice Review Committee;

2.6 Other initiatives as agreed from time to time.

3 We understand that your Office and the Policy Advisory Group have been consulted.

**Recommendations**

4 I recommend that you:

4.1 agree to the proposed delegation to the Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac) (Hon David Seymour), as outlined in the attached letter;

4.2 note that a summary of these responsibilities will be posted on DPMC's website, as soon as they are approved and finalised, and thereby will be publicly accessible at that point.

Diana Hawker  
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet

YES / NO / DISCUSS

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister

Date: 18 / 12 / 23

**Distribution:**

Cameron Burrows, PMO

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