



Cabinet Committee on State Sector Reform and Expenditure Control

SEC Min (13) 3/1

Copy No: 24

Minute of Decision

12 MAR 2013

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Better Public Services Priorities for 2013 (Paper One)

Portfolios: Deputy Prime Minister / State Services

On 12 March 2013, the Cabinet Committee on State Sector Reform and Expenditure Control:

- 1 **noted** that in 2012, the critical foundations for delivering on the Better Public Services (BPS) reform agenda were established, including:
 - 1.1 a focus on results – the Prime Minister’s ten results for New Zealanders: shifting the focus from delivering outputs to delivering results that benefit families and communities;
 - 1.2 people-centred service design and delivery : driving more efficient and responsive services, designed *with* people and businesses and organised around *their* needs;
 - 1.3 delivering effective spending and efficiencies through agencies:
 - 1.3.1 sharing resources and services, and taking a whole of system approach for common functions to leverage scale and expertise;
 - 1.3.2 ensuring that they are better positioned to meet future challenges;
 - 1.4 building capability to deliver services in the best way: whether from the public, not-for-profit, or private sectors, and testing new models of service provision;
- 2 **noted** that strong and clear leadership will be required to deliver the goals for 2013, which means that:
 - 2.1 Ministers must continue to provide leadership and clear messages about what needs to be achieved and unequivocally back the agreed mandates;
 - 2.2 leadership from the Head of State Services, supported by the Corporate Centre, is critical for ensuring that State sector leaders are supported, challenged and held to account for their performance, and that their agencies are well positioned to meet future challenges;

- 3 **agreed** that the focus for the BPS reform programme in 2013 be to drive practical action that delivers tangible change with a focus on:
- 3.1 delivering results: ensuring that, by the end of 2013, there is full confidence that targets are on track to be met or exceeded and, if not, that clear remedial actions have been actioned;
 - 3.2 achieving efficiencies and system wide benefits: it is expected, through functional leadership, that observable changes will be seen which move towards better management of services and delivering efficiencies;
- 4 **noted** the accompanying minutes which contain decisions to lift the ambition and pace for 2013, as follows:
- 4.1 Speed Up Reforms With Better Public Services Seed Fund (Paper Two) [SEC Min (13) 3/2];
 - 4.2 Ministerial Expectations for NGO Contracting, Optimise HR, and Optimise Finance (Paper Three) [SEC Min (13) 3/3];
 - 4.3 Better Use of Data to Improve Outcomes for New Zealanders (Paper Four) [SEC Min (13) 3/4];
- 5 **noted** that:
- 5.1 in March 2012, a BPS Programme Board was established by the State Services Commissioner and an Advisory Group was established to support the government's programme of State sector reform, but that their respective roles now largely overlap;
 - 5.2 it is intended that BPS governance be streamlined by moving to a single advisory body, and that the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of State Services will advise Cabinet on the new arrangements by the end of March 2013;
 - 5.3 the Head of State Services will appoint members of the new advisory body, in consultation with State Sector Reform Ministers.