



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government Response to the Petition of Brian Webb: Align Weekly Earnings to Eight Hours of the Minimum Wage Before Reducing Benefits

Portfolio **Social Development and Employment**

On 30 May 2024, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 11 March 2024, the Petition of Brian Webb (the Petition), titled ‘Align Weekly Earnings to Eight Hours of the Minimum Wage Before Reducing Benefits’ was presented to the House;
- 2 **noted** that on 26 March 2024, the Petitions Committee referred the Petition to the Government for response;
- 3 **noted** that the proposed Government response acknowledges that abatement thresholds over time correspond to a lower number of hours of earnings if they are not indexed to a form of wage growth, or regularly updated;
- 4 **noted** that the proposed Government response states that there is no planned work on this subject currently underway, as the Government must balance large policy changes against income adequacy and fiscal costs, and because changes were made to abatement thresholds in 2020 and 2021;
- 5 **approved** the Government response, attached to the submission under LEG-24-SUB-0112, titled ‘Government Response to the Petition of Brian Webb: Align Weekly Earnings to Eight Hours of the Minimum Wage Before Reducing Benefits’ (the Government response);
- 6 **noted** that the Government response must be presented to the House by 19 June 2024;
- 7 **invited** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to present the Government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for Social Development and Employment to write to the petitioner enclosing a copy of the Government response, once it has been presented to the House.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown (Chair)
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Scott Simpson, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Leader of the House
Office of the Minister of Revenue
Officials Committee for LEG