



27 January 2025

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0007268-Patrice

Patrice

Email: fyi-request-29452-4049f696@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Patrice

Thank you for your email of 6 December 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I am requesting any briefings, aids to oral briefings, emails and project documents provided by MBIE to the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, Judith Collins (or her office) on the topic of amending the Marsden Fund Investment Plan and Terms of Reference and any other instrument which amounted to removing support for humanities and social sciences initiatives, and the disestablishment of independent funding panels.*

*To narrow the scope of my request, I am requesting documents containing substantive policy advice on the matter above, including the policy rationale, the origin of the decision, and MBIE's view on the matter. You may exclude purely procedural exchanges or advice required to operationalise the Minister's ultimate decision.*

Please find attached the following documents.

#	Date	Description/Title	Withholding grounds
1	17 June 2024	Briefing 2324-3662: Marsden Fund Council: Proposed approach to appointments	9(2)(a)
2	11 July 2024	Briefing 2425-0224: Marsden Fund Administration	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(h)
2a		Annex Two: Options to revise and set policy directions for the Marsden Fund	9(2)(h)
3	13 August 2024	Marsden Fund Council Letter to Hon Judith Collins KC	Nil
4	25 September 2024	Briefing 0003110: Revised Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv)
5		Email 0003110 – Revised Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund	9(2)(a)
6	8 October 2024	Email: FW: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund	9(2)(a)
7	10 October 2024	Email: FW_ 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund	9(2)(a)
8	11 October 2024	Briefing 0005052: Updated Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund	9(2)(a)
9		Email: Briefing 0005052	9(2)(a)
10	22 October 2024	Email: RE: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund	9(2)(a)

11	28 October 2024	Marsden Fund Council Letter to Hon Judith Collins KC	Nil
12	7 November 2024	Marsden Fund Council Letter to Hon Judith Collins KC	Nil
12a		Annex One: Marsden Fund Investment Plan 2025-2027	Nil
12b		Annex Two: Marsden Fund Assessment Criteria	Nil
13	19 November 2024	Email: RE_ Marsden	9(2)(a)
14	20 November 2024	Briefing: 0006530 Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council	9(2)(a)
15		Email: BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council	9(2)(a)
16		Email: W: BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council	9(2)(a)
17	5 December 2024	Email: FW: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council	9(2)(a)

Please note some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;  
and
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

Please note that this response and enclosed documents, with your personal details removed, may be published on the MBIE website: [www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/published-official-information-act-requests](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/about/open-government-and-official-information/published-official-information-act-requests).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



**Lily Li**  
Acting Manager Science System Policy



## BRIEFING

### Marsden Fund Council: Proposed approach to appointments

<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2324-3662

Minister	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Judith Collins KC <b>Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology</b>	<p><b>Agree</b> to reappoint members of the Marsden Fund Council.</p> <p><b>Agree</b> to the proposed search for a member of the Council.</p> <p><b>Agree</b> to a five percent increase to the honoraria paid to Council members.</p>	4 July 2024

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Paul Metcalf	Manager, Appointments and Governance	9(2)(a)	✓
Becky Gill	Senior Advisor, Board Appointments and Governance	04 901 1273	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Chair, Marsden Fund Council Royal Society System and Agency Performance, Public Service Commission

Minister's office to complete:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

**Comments**



## BRIEFING

### Marsden Fund Council: Proposed approach to appointments

<b>Date:</b>	17 June 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2324-3662

#### Purpose

To seek your agreement to a proposed approach for appointments to the Marsden Fund Council (the Council). Further, to seek your agreement to a five percent increase to fees paid the Council.

#### Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** that terms of three Marsden Fund Council members are due to expire in the next year.  
*Noted*
- b **Agree** to reappoint Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley as convenor of the Social Sciences panel for a term expiring on 30 November 2027.  
*Agree / ~~Disagree~~*
- c **Agree** to reappoint Professor Cynthia White as convenor of the Humanities panel for a term expiring on 30 November 2027.  
*Agree / ~~Disagree~~*
- d **Agree** to the proposed search for a new convenor of the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry panel.  
*Agree / ~~Disagree~~*
- e **Agree** to a five percent increase to the honoraria paid to Council members.  
*Agree / ~~Disagree~~*
- f **Indicate** whether you wish to discuss these appointments with officials.  
*~~Yes~~ / No*

Paul Metcalf  
**Manager, Appointments and Governance**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

17 / 06 / 2024

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

22 / 09 / 24  
..... / ..... / .....

## Background

1. The Marsden Fund was established by the Government in 1994 to fund excellent fundamental research. It is a contestable fund that is overseen by the Marsden Fund Council (the Council), which you appoint as the responsible Minister. The Royal Society of New Zealand administers Marsden funding according to recommendations made by the Council and provides administrative support to the Council.
2. The Marsden Fund timetable usually begins in December with the publication of guidelines for applicants. Convenors are provided with summaries of proposals in February, and funding decisions are announced in November. Ideally, the terms of members are aligned to end in November so that there is certainty of Council membership for the December–November funding year.

## Membership of the Council

3. You appoint the Chair and ten other members of the Council. The members are eminent researchers in a range of disciplines and each member convenes a panel of experts in their academic field. The Council's functions are set out in the Terms of Reference (**Annex One**).

Member	Panel	Date of original appointment	Term expiry date
Prof. Penelope Brothers	Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry	1/06/2017	30/11/2024
Distinguished Prof. Paul Spoonley	Social Sciences	1/06/2017	30/11/2024
Prof. Cynthia White	Humanities	1/03/2018	28/02/2025
Prof. Jacqueline Beggs	Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour	5/07/2022	4/07/2025
Prof. Michelle Spiller	Economics and Human and Behavioural Sciences	5/07/2022	4/07/2025
Prof. Gillian Dobbie	Chair of the Council	1/03/2015	30/11/2025
Prof. Stephen MacDonell	Mathematical and Information Sciences	1/06/2023	30/11/2025
Prof. Richard Newcomb	Cellular, Molecular and Physiological Biology	1/03/2018	30/11/2026
Distinguished Prof. Geoff Chase	Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences	1/03/2018	30/11/2026
Prof. Jan Lindsay	Earth Sciences and Astronomy	1/12/2023	30/11/2026
Prof. Colin Brown	Biomedical Sciences	1/12/2019	30/11/2026

## Upcoming expiry of terms

### Three terms expire in the next year

4. The terms of Professor Penelope Brothers and Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley expire on 30 November 2024. Distinguished Professor Spoonley is available for reappointment, while Professor Brothers is not.

5. The term of Professor Cynthia White expires on 28 February 2025. Professor White is available for reappointment.

#### *Distinguished Professor Paul Spoonley*

6. Professor Spoonley is a sociologist with over 40 years of experience. He has held a number of roles assessing research excellence including for the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, a number of Performance-Based Research Fund rounds, and both the Social Sciences and the Economic and Human Behaviour Marsden Fund panels. He was formerly the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Massey University and was the Co-Director of He Whenua Taurikura, the National Centre of Research Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.

#### *Professor Cynthia White*

7. Professor White is Professor of Applied Linguistics at Massey University and Pro Vice-Chancellor of its College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Before being appointed to the Council, she was a member of the Marsden Fund Humanities Panel and has served on the Humanities and Law Panel for the Performance Based Research Fund.
8. Professor White's term does not expire until February 2025 however the Marsden Council Chair has requested this appointment be confirmed earlier as members of the Council do not continue in office past the expiry of their terms. In the event of a vacancy, the Chair of the Council must act in the role of panel convenor. The Marsden Fund funding cycle commences in December so if a new member was to be appointed during the funding cycle this can be problematic.

#### *Recommendation to reappoint members*

9. The Chair considers that Professor Spoonley and Professor White are strong contributors to the Council, and we recommend their reappointments until 30 November 2027.

#### **Search for a new member**

10. Professor Brothers is Chair of the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry (PCB) panel, which focuses on studies related to materials science, physics, chemistry, biophysics, chemical biology and biochemistry. We recommend publicly searching for candidates with specialist knowledge within the subject areas covered by the PCB panel. A draft position description is attached as **Annex Two**.

#### **Honoraria review**

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11. We have undertaken a review of the honoraria paid to the Council (**Annex Three**). The Council is classified as a Group 4, Level 2 body under the Cabinet Fees Framework (the Framework).
12. The honoraria have not changed since the Council was established in 1994. There has also been an increase in complexity to the Council role since fees were set. Since the Marsden Fund was established, it has increased from \$6 million to around \$80 million. The increase in funding has been associated with increased complexity, function and expertise required for the Council. Also there has been an increase in the hours worked by the Council since 1994.
13. A comparison of the current honoraria and the Framework band is below.

Scenario	Chair	Member
Expected time commitment	30 days	20 days
Current honorarium	\$20,000 per year (\$667 per day)	\$10,000 (\$500 per day)
Group 4, Level 2 band	\$429–\$974 per day	\$319–\$616 per day
Five per cent increase	\$21,000 per year (\$700 per day)	\$10,500 per year (\$525 per day)

14. We recommend adjusting the Council honoraria by five per cent. This would result in the Chair being paid \$21,000 per year and members being paid \$10,500 per year.
15. There is no direct financial implication for the Crown, as honoraria are paid out of the funding provided to the Royal Society to administer the Marsden Fund through the Research Contract Management appropriation. There is sufficient funding available, and the Royal Society does not see any issue around affordability with the proposed increases. The total cost currently is \$120,000 (for one Chair and ten members). With the proposed increase the total cost will be \$126,000 per annum.
16. Under the Framework, you can approve increases in fees of up to five percent within the Framework band. The proposed Council honoraria are consistent with the Framework, and there are no requirements for you to undertake consultation through the Appointment and Honours Committee.

## Next steps

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17. Subject to your agreement, we will provide you with draft Cabinet papers to progress the reappointments of Professor Spoonley and Professor White at the appropriate times.
18. Subject to your agreement, we will commence a search for a new convenor of the PCB panel. Attached as **Annex Three** are letters for you to seek nominations from your colleagues, should you wish to do so.
19. Should you agree to the honoraria increase, we will inform the Council and the Royal Society.
20. The terms of four members, including the Chair, expire in July and November 2025. We will provide advice on these appointments next year.

## Annexes

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Annex One: Marsden Fund Council Terms of Reference

Annex Two: Marsden Fund Council member position description

Annex Three: Letters seeking nominations

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# Marsden Fund Council

## Terms of Reference (2017)

1. The Marsden Fund Council exists to oversee the Marsden Fund on behalf of the Minister of Science and Innovation. This Terms of Reference details the role and monitoring of the Marsden Fund Council.

### Minister's Responsibilities

2. The Minister for Science and Innovation has overall responsibility for the Marsden Fund.
3. The Minister issues a Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund from time to time, and appoints a Marsden Fund Council to manage the Fund in such a way as to fulfil the objectives as set out in this Terms of Reference and the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference.
4. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has entered into an agreement with the Royal Society of New Zealand to provide executive support and secretariat services to the Marsden Fund.

### Functions

5. The functions of the Marsden Fund Council shall be to:
  - a) oversee the assessment of proposals for funding from the Marsden Fund and recommend to the Royal Society of New Zealand each year those proposals which should be funded and the level of funding to be awarded
  - b) oversee the progress of research funded by the Marsden Fund by considering the results of monitoring and auditing of contracts undertaken by the Royal Society of New Zealand
  - c) develop best practice policies and procedures to implement the Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund
  - d) provide advice to the Minister of Science and Innovation on the performance and achievement of the Marsden Fund against its objectives
  - e) ensure that the relevance and importance of Marsden-funded research is monitored and communicated to the New Zealand public; and

### Funding for research excellence

The Marsden Fund is administered by The Royal Society of New Zealand, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140  
Tel: +64 4 470 5799, Email: marsden@royalsociety.org.nz, <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>

- f) meet its obligations as laid out in the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference, including developing and publishing an Investment Plan, Performance Framework, eligibility criteria, and selection criteria for the Fund.

### Scope of Activities

6. In carrying out its functions the Marsden Fund Council shall ensure the following activities are fully addressed, with the support of the secretariat provided by the Royal Society of New Zealand, or other external support as required.

### Oversee the Assessment of Proposals for Funding from the Marsden Fund

7. In the funding of proposals the Council undertakes to:
  - a) develop contestable assessment processes whereby proposals will be treated in a fair, equitable and consistent fashion
  - b) undertake a peer review process of international standard for all proposals
  - c) maintain best practice procedures in relation to conflict of interest and confidentiality procedures and
  - d) issue guidance to the Royal Society of New Zealand on appropriate indirect costs to be included in funding contracts with research organisations.

### Use the Principles of Best Practice to Develop Operational Policies and Procedures for the Marsden Fund

8. The policies and procedures used by the Marsden Fund Council in carrying out its functions shall be in accordance with the Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund, as amended by the Minister of Science and Innovation from time to time. However, such policies and procedures shall specifically exclude any direction from the Minister as to the funding or not of individual proposals.
9. The Marsden Fund Council may adopt such additional policies and procedures as it considers necessary to the carrying out of its functions, but those policies and procedures must be consistent with those set down by the Minister.
10. The policies and procedures implemented by the Marsden Fund Council shall be published in a Policy Manual and made widely available to applicants and stakeholders. The Marsden Fund Council shall consistently and fairly implement its policies and procedures until or unless variations are similarly made widely known.
11. The Marsden Fund Council shall adopt a principal of continuous improvement in its funding processes so that its policies and procedures remain fit for purpose. The Marsden Fund Council shall regularly review its policies and procedures and seek feedback from its stakeholders on the extent that its policies and procedures for administering the Marsden Fund are fit for purpose.

### Marsden Fund Council Compositions, Membership and Relationship with the Royal Society Te Apārangi

#### Membership

12. The Marsden Fund Council consists of up to eleven members, comprising a Chair and ten eminent researchers spanning the range of disciplines. The Marsden Fund Council shall meet

as required, but a minimum of twice a year to discuss recommendations by expert panels on preliminary and full proposals.

13. The Chair and members of the Marsden Fund Council shall be appointed by the Minister of Science and Innovation, with individual members appointed for terms and under such conditions as determined by the Minister from time to time. In making appointments and setting terms and conditions of membership, the Minister shall seek the advice of the Royal Society of New Zealand, existing members of the Marsden Fund Council and others in the research community. A Deputy Chair may be appointed from within the Council membership by the Council members.

#### Liability of Members

14. The Marsden Fund Council members will not be personally liable for acts or defaults done or omitted in good faith in the exercise or intended exercise of their functions under these terms of reference.

#### Executive Support for the Marsden Fund Council

15. Executive support for the Marsden Fund Council shall be provided by the Royal Society of New Zealand, pursuant to a funding agreement negotiated between the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Royal Society of New Zealand. The output agreement will specify both the range of services to be provided and the price for those services. Of the funding provided for administration, an amount shall be identified as being for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the Council.

#### Provision of Secretariat Services

16. The Marsden Fund Council shall be entitled to require services from the Royal Society of New Zealand in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Marsden Fund Council. The Memorandum of Understanding will outline the roles and responsibilities of the two parties.
17. The Marsden Fund Council shall communicate directly with a nominated employee of the Royal Society of New Zealand whose function is to manage the executive support for the Marsden Fund Council.

#### Advice to the Minister

18. The Marsden Fund Council is to provide the Minister of Science and Innovation with a biennial progress and achievements report for the Marsden Fund. The report is to be prepared by the Royal Society of New Zealand, under the direction of the Marsden Fund Council, according to the requirements outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Performance Framework and agreed with the Minister.

### Management and Dispersal of Funds

#### Funding for Allocation

19. Funds available for allocation each year shall be formally advised to the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Marsden Fund Council by the Minister of Science and Innovation subsequent to the presentation to Parliament of the Estimates of Appropriations for that year and no irrevocable contracted commitments should be made prior to that advice being received. However, guidelines as to the likely level of funding shall be advised to the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Marsden Fund Council by the Minister of Science and Innovation from time to time, to assist the smooth running of the Marsden Fund.

### Advice on Marsden Fund Allocations

20. Advice as to how the funding shall be allocated will be sought from the Marsden Fund Council. The advice of the Marsden Fund Council on funding allocations shall normally be accepted by the Royal Society of New Zealand. The Marsden Fund Council must ensure its recommendations appropriately take into account, and do not exceed, the funding the Royal Society of New Zealand has received for the Marsden Fund from the Minister plus any interest on that funding.
21. In the event that advice on any funding allocation is not accepted by the Royal Society of New Zealand, the Royal Society of New Zealand shall immediately notify the Minister, in writing, that a disagreement has occurred and the reasons for non-acceptance of the advice. The Royal Society of New Zealand on behalf of the Minister shall then commission a review panel to review the Marsden Fund Council's advice. Panel representatives shall include Ministerial, Royal Society of New Zealand and Marsden Fund Council nominee(s).
22. The Royal Society of New Zealand shall seek the Minister's approval of the final review panel and its terms of reference. The Minister shall have the final decision as to its acceptance or not of the review panel's decision to accept or reject the recommendation of the Marsden Fund Council. The results of the review shall be made known to all parties.

### Monitoring of the Marsden Fund Council

23. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment shall monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of the management of the Marsden Fund. This will include monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of the Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund and the suitability of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Marsden Fund Council to achieve the Fund's objectives.
24. The Royal Society of New Zealand and the Marsden Fund Council will make provision for the collection of financial information and other data in support of performance metrics for the Marsden Fund required by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in carrying out its monitoring role

**Annex Two: Marsden Fund Council member position description**

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On behalf of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, the Ministry is seeking candidates who wish to be considered for appointment as a Member of the Marsden Fund Council (the Council) and Convenor of the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry (PCB) Panel.

## About The Marsden Fund Council

The Marsden Fund invests in investigator-initiated research aimed at generating new knowledge, with long-term benefit to New Zealand. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.

The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams and fosters creativity and innovation within the research, science and technology system.

Council members are appointed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology for terms of up to three years. Council members can expect a workload of about 20 working days per year, concentrated mainly in the periods leading up to the assessment of funding proposals in March and August.

The full Council normally assembles three times each year in Wellington, usually in May (one day), August (two days) and October (one day). In addition to preparing for those meetings, Council members may also participate in ad hoc videoconferences on specific issues two or three times per year.

## Council specification

At this time, the Minister is seeking candidates that have specialist knowledge within the subject areas covered by the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry Panel. This Panel focuses on studies related to materials science, physics, chemistry, biophysics, chemical biology and biochemistry.

In addition, Council members collectively will have:

- governance experience
- a strategic view – including an understanding of the research, science and technology environment, an ability to take a broad view of RS&T requirements and an ability to take a leadership role
- networks at a community, national and international level
- significant achievement in research, science or technology
- a range of affiliations across Universities, Crown Research Institutes, and the Public and Private sectors
- knowledge of evaluation methodologies
- knowledge of research methodologies and frameworks
- knowledge of human capital formation
- an understanding of Vision Mātauranga
- a balance in terms of gender, ethnicity and geographical spread.

## Conflicts of interest

Members have an obligation to act in good faith at all times and in the best interests of the Council. Members may have conflicts of interest at times. The Council has procedures in place for dealing with these.

## Honorarium

Members receive an annual honorarium of \$10,000. Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses are also paid.

## The Marsden Fund objectives

The Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund Council detail the role and monitoring of the Marsden Fund Council.

The functions of the Marsden Fund Council are to:

- › oversee the assessment of proposals for funding from the Marsden Fund and recommend to the Royal Society of New Zealand each year those proposals which should be funded and the level of funding to be awarded;
- › oversee the progress of research funded by the Marsden Fund by considering the results of monitoring and auditing of contracts undertaken by the Royal Society of New Zealand;
- › develop best practice policies and procedures to implement the Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund (including determining eligibility criteria);
- › provide advice to the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology on the performance and achievement of the Marsden Fund against its objectives; and
- › ensure that the relevance and importance of Marsden funded research is monitored and communicated to the New Zealand public.

## Marsden Fund Council Membership

Council members are appointed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology for terms of up to three years. Council members can expect a workload of about 20 working days per year, concentrated mainly in the periods leading up to the assessment of funding proposals in March and August.

The full Council normally assembles three times each year for a full-day meeting in Wellington. In addition to preparing for those meetings, Council members also participate in ad hoc teleconferences on specific issues two or three times per year.

Each Council member also convenes their own assessment panel. This involves:

- › working with the Council secretariat to appoint panel members and plan panel meetings
- › chairing two full-day panel meetings in Wellington, in March and August
- › reading and grading approximately 100 preliminary proposals and 25 full proposals for funding
- › assessing the proposals with other panel members
- › being the point of contact for researchers seeking feedback on their proposals.

Te āhua o te tūranga

Position description: **Marsden Fund Council – Member/Convenor**

The Council Chair, as independent observer, normally attends each panel meeting. Other Council members act in this role whenever the Chair is unavailable. On average, this involves one additional full day in Wellington for each Council member.

Council members are also encouraged to help promote the Fund and to interact with the New Zealand community of researchers. There may be events at which Council members are asked to speak on behalf of the Fund. The secretariat will offer Council members the opportunity to join the secretariat on the monitoring of visits to researchers working at the Council member's home site.

## Further information

- › [Marsden Fund Council – Terms of Reference](#)
- › [Marsden Fund website](#)

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# Hon Judith Collins

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space  
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the  
Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



Hon David Seymour  
Leader, ACT New Zealand  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6011

Dear Hon Seymour

## **Council appointment to be considered in 2024 – Marsden Fund Council**

This letter seeks your nominations of candidates who would add value to the Marsden Fund Council. Attached are Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund Council and the specific skills I am looking for. The vacancy is for the Convenor of the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry Panel. Candidates should be eminent researchers with specialist knowledge within studies related to materials science, physics, chemistry, biophysics, chemical biology and biochemistry.

I would be grateful if you could inform your networks of this opportunity.

Enquiries and initial expressions of interest can be made by contacting the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment ([boardappointments@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:boardappointments@mbie.govt.nz)).

Please forward any nominations to the Ministry by 15 July 2024.

Kind regards,

Hon Judith Collins, KC MP  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

encl. Position description

# Hon Judith Collins

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space  
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the  
Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



Caucus colleagues  
The New Zealand National Party  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6011

Dear Caucus colleagues

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Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space  
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the  
Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Leader, New Zealand First Party  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6011

Dear Rt Hon Peters

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Hon Judith Collins, KC MP  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

encl. Position description



# BRIEFING

## Marsden Fund Administration

<b>Date:</b>	11 July 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2425-0224

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Judith Collins KC <b>Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology</b>	<b>Note</b> the contents of this briefing and meet with officials to discuss	11 July 2024

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Heather Penny	Manager, Specialised Investments	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Catherine Hunter	Principal Investment Manager	s 9(2)(a)	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
MBIE Legal have been consulted and advice incorporated into this briefing.

Minister's office to complete:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

Comments



# BRIEFING

## Title

<b>Date:</b>	11 July 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2425-0224

## Purpose

This paper explores short, medium and long-term options to ensure that the Marsden Fund Council is able to demonstrate that it has prioritised funding projects that provide value for money in a fiscally constrained environment.

## Executive summary

The Marsden Fund Council is an independent entity and acts under delegated authority from the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Council is responsible for developing the strategic direction of the Fund and for choosing which proposals are to be funded. It is tasked with funding excellent investigator-led research. The Fund is multi-disciplined and is the primary contestable fund in New Zealand to fund social science and humanities research.

The purpose of the Fund is to *“invest in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with long-term benefit to New Zealand”*. Under the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference, the funded research is not subject to government’s socio-economic priorities.

This paper explores options to change the fund to meet the needs of New Zealand and to enable you to provide greater direction on what the Marsden Fund invests in.

## Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

- a **Agree** to meet with meet with the Marsden Fund Council (the Council) to discuss your expectations for the Fund and indicate that there will be changes to the 2025 round.

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- b **Note** that under the Fund’s current Terms of Reference the research it funds is not subject to government’s socio-economic priorities.

Noted

- c **Agree** that the 2024 funding round continue under existing criteria but:

- direct the Council to ensure that project titles better reflect the nature of the fundamental research that in turn reduces the risk of adverse public scrutiny and/or

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- request the Council to consider relevance and value for money to the New Zealand taxpayer when making final decisions on the portfolio of research to be funded and/or

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- request the Council to alter the portfolio balance across the ten research disciplines to fund a greater proportion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) projects.

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- d **Note** that you may replace Marsden Fund Council members as their terms expire or in entirety now (high risk) or after the round.

Noted

- e **Agree** to direct the Science System Advisory Group (SSAG) to consider the role and operation of the Marsden Fund and provide you with initial advice in advance of the 2025 Marsden Fund round.

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- f **Agree** to update the Terms of Reference to provide greater alignment for future funding rounds in terms of socio-economic benefits or areas of research.


Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- g **Agree** to write to the Council directing them to develop a new Investment Plan which better reflects your expectations for the Fund, and which incorporates SSAG recommendations (including three new assessment criteria proposed in SSAG's first report).

Agree / Disagree / Discuss

- h **Agree** to meet with and discuss Marsden Fund administration with officials.

Agree / Disagree

  
Heather Penny  
**Manager, Specialised Investments**  
LSE, MBIE

11 July 2024

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and  
Technology**

..... / ..... / .....

## Background

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1. The Marsden Fund (the Fund) invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with long-term benefit to New Zealand. Under the Fund Terms of Reference this research is not subject to government's socio-economic priorities.
2. As Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, you have overall responsibility for the Fund, appoint the members of the Marsden Fund Council (the Council), set the terms of reference, and agree to the key documents underpinning its administration (Investment Plan and Performance Framework). An overview of these documents, alongside the Fund's objectives is provided in Annex One.

## You have options in the way you can direct the Marsden Fund Council

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3. You have three main options to revise and set policy direction for the Fund:
  - Changing the Marsden Fund and Marsden Fund Council Terms of Reference
  - Agreeing to a new Marsden Fund Investment Plan proposed by the Council
  - Appointing or replacing the Council.

### Changes to the Marsden Fund Council membership

4. As Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology you appoint the members of the Council. While Council members serve three year terms, 9(2)(h) [REDACTED] Each member convenes a discipline-based panel. The current Council members and their terms are described in Annex Three.
5. 9(2)(h) [REDACTED]
6. Two roles on the Marsden Fund Council are due to be replaced or reappointed in November 2024, with a third role in February 2025. MBIE has recommended you reappoint the conveners of the Social Science and Humanities panels, and has recommended a replacement for the Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry convener (who is not available for reappointment – *briefing 2324-3662 refers*).

### Changes within the current funding round

7. 9(2)(h) [REDACTED]
  - 9(2)(h) [REDACTED]

### Changes to the 2025 funding round onwards



8. s 9(2)(h) [Redacted]

9. s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

10. These criteria could be formally adopted for the 2025 funding round through a revised Investment Plan.

11. s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

*Cancelling the current / future funding rounds*

12. s 9(2)(h) [Redacted]

13. s 9(2)(h) [Redacted]

**Recommendations**

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14. We recommend against any substantive changes to published funding criteria that would impact the current round.

15. We recommend you consider continuing the 2024 Funding round under existing criteria but discuss with the Council how it might consider titles, value for money, and better balance (e.g. STEM) in its decision-making process.

16. We recommend you update the Terms of Reference (subject to the initial advice from the SSAG), and then write to the Marsden Fund Council directing them to develop a new Investment Plan for the next funding round.

17. We recommend that you direct the SSAG to consider the role and operation of the Marsden Fund (noting this advice would be required no later than 30 September 2024).

**Next steps**

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18. Meet with officials to discuss these options.

## **Annexes**

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**Annex One:** Operation of the Marsden Fund (including key documents and Fund objectives)

**Annex Two:** Ministerial Options to revise and set policy directions for the Marsden Fund.

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## Annex One: Operation of the Marsden Fund

The scope of the Marsden Fund appropriation is: “*This appropriation is limited to excellent investigator-led research*”. Administration of the Fund is guided by the following documents, which are subject to your approval as Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology:

- **Marsden Fund Council Terms of Reference** sets out the relationship between the Minister and the Council, with the Minister having overall responsibility for the Council. It states that the Minister will issue a Terms of Reference for the Marsden Fund from time to time.
- **Marsden Fund Terms of Reference** stipulates the purpose and scope of the Fund. Updated periodically, with the last update occurring in 2017.
- **Investment Plan 2021 – 2024** sets out the strategic direction of the Fund, including how it will be managed to achieve its objectives and contribute to New Zealand’s research strategy, vision and goals. The Investment Plan also describes the categories of award and amount of funding available to support research over the three-year period.
- **Marsden Fund Performance Framework 2021–2024** describes how the Marsden Fund Council will measure the performance of the Marsden Fund.

### Purpose and objectives of the Marsden Fund

<i>From the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference (2017)</i>	
<b>Purpose of the Marsden Fund</b>	<p>The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with long-term benefit to New Zealand. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand. The research is not subject to government’s socio-economic priorities.</p> <p>The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand’s leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams and fosters creativity and innovation within the research, science and technology system.</p>
<b>Primary Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-initiated research; and</li> <li>• Support the advancement of knowledge in New Zealand and contribute to the global knowledge base.</li> </ul>
<b>Secondary Objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the development of advanced skills in New Zealand including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.</li> <li>• Contribute in the long-term to economic, social, cultural, environmental, health or other impacts for New Zealand.</li> </ul>

## Annex Two: Ministerial Options to revise and set policy directions for the Marsden Fund.

Attached separately

## Annex Three: Marsden Fund Council members and terms

Member	Panel	Date of original appointment	Term expiry date
Prof. Penelope Brothers	Physics, Chemistry and Biochemistry	1/06/2017	30/11/2024
Distinguished Prof. Paul Spoonley	Social Sciences	1/06/2017	30/11/2024
Prof. Cynthia White	Humanities	1/03/2018	28/02/2025
Prof. Jacqueline Beggs	Ecology, Evolution and Behaviour	5/07/2022	4/07/2025
Prof. Michelle Spiller	Economics and Human and Behavioural Sciences	5/07/2022	4/07/2025
Prof. Gillian Dobbie	Chair of the Council	1/03/2015	30/11/2025
Prof. Stephen MacDonell	Mathematical and Information Sciences	1/06/2023	30/11/2025
Prof. Richard Newcomb	Cellular, Molecular and Physiological Biology	1/03/2018	30/11/2026
Distinguished Prof. Geoff Chase	Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences	1/03/2018	30/11/2026
Prof. Jan Lindsay	Earth Sciences and Astronomy	1/12/2023	30/11/2026
Prof. Colin Brown	Biomedical Sciences	1/12/2019	30/11/2026

Annex Two: Options to set policy direction for the Marsden Fund

Option	Potential outcome	Risks
For the current round (2024)		
<p><b>Recommended</b></p> <p>Meet with the Marsden Fund Council to discuss your expectations in the current fiscally constrained environment.</p>	<p>Council provides directions to panels within the scope of existing Fund settings, which could include consideration to project titles, proportion of funds invested in social sciences and humanities and value for money.</p> <p>Limited changes to which proposals are funded.</p>	<p>Projects perceived to have limited/benefit to NZ may still get funded.</p>
<p>Direct the Marsden Council to make substantive changes to the current funding round (through immediate changes to the Terms of Reference, Investment Plan or by writing to the Council).</p>	<p>Council revises current process/criteria etc in line with new direction.</p> <p>Council directs assessors to consider your expectations as part of the second-stage assessments.</p> <p>Significant changes to type of proposals that are funded in the current round.</p>	<p><b>Reputational risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Perceived to be interfering with an independent process, damage to reputation domestically and internationally</li> </ul> <p>s 9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative response from the NZ research community (researchers leave NZ)</li> </ul>
<p>Stop the current Marsden Fund contestable funding round.</p>	<p>No projects funded in 2024/25 (or beyond if fund stopped in its entirety).</p> <p>Funding gap for investigator-led research unless the funding is reallocated or is re-directed to support research via other agencies.</p>	<p><b>Reputational Risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant reputation risks from the sector</li> </ul> <p>s 9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant immediate impact for research funding (particularly for universities) across all research disciplines.</li> <li>High risk of losing talented STEM researchers, particularly early-career researchers overseas.</li> </ul>

Annex Two: Options to set policy direction for the Marsden Fund

Option	Potential outcome	Risks
<b>For the next round (2025)</b>		
<p>Cancel the 2025 funding round and reprioritise funding.</p>	<p>No new projects are funded through the Marsden Fund.</p> <p>Existing Marsden Fund projects continue until completion (ie some funding would be required to honour these contracts).</p>	<p><b>Reputational risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Significant risk given timing of sector reform (which will require time to implement).</li> </ul> <p>9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Significant negative reaction if the fund is stopped in entirety without alternative funding sources being provided for investigator-led research.</li> <li>– Significant funding gap in research sector.</li> <li>– High risk of losing talented STEM researchers, particularly early-career researchers overseas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommended</b></p> <p>Direct the Marsden Fund Council to update the Marsden Fund Investment Plan to align with your expectations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Considering national benefit when assessing research</li> <li>– Balance on disciplines that are funded</li> <li>– Number and discipline-focus of funding panels</li> </ul>	<p>Investment Plan is updated in accordance with your expectations for the 2025 funding round, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Eligibility and assessment criteria have a greater emphasis on potential benefit to New Zealand.</li> <li>– The research disciplines supported through the Fund are amended.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Reputational risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Low Risk</li> </ul> <p>9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Negative reaction if specific disciplines are excluded and funding reduced.</li> <li>– Potentially significant negative impact on teaching-led research in universities and create a funding gap for excluded disciplines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommended</b></p> <p>Amend the Terms of Reference of the Marsden Fund so that funding decisions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– must give due regard to government priorities</li> <li>– have national benefit as a primary purpose of the fund</li> </ul>	<p>Council updates upcoming process/criteria etc in line with new Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Funded proposals have a greater line-of-sight to potential benefits to New Zealand.</p>	<p><b>Reputational risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Low, change of purpose of the fund</li> </ul> <p>9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Negative response if fund may no longer be perceived as ‘investigator-led’.</li> <li>– Lack of differentiation from the Endeavour Fund</li> </ul>

Annex Two: Options to set policy direction for the Marsden Fund

<p>Replace current Marsden Fund Council with new members to meet new expectations under new Terms of Reference for the Fund or re-confirm existing members under new Terms.</p>		<p><b>Reputational risk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Could be perceived as political interference in academia.</li> </ul> <p>9(2)(h)</p> <p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wholesale replacement of the Council would create considerable angst within the sector.</li> <li>– May deter people of high academic standing to accept appointment</li> </ul>
<p><b>Recommended</b></p> <p>Commission rapid advice from the SSAG on the Fund and the process for making decisions.</p>	<p>Make recommendations on whether current processes are meeting the intent of the Fund.</p>	<p><b>Research Community Response</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– SSAG rapid advice would be aligned with the sector reform thinking and recommendations could be incorporated into a new Investment Plan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>For future rounds</b></p>		
<p>Ask the SSAG to report on Marsden Fund and the research it supports in the context of the broader funding landscape in NZ as part of their second report.</p>	<p>SSAG reports back (November) on whether current Marsden settings are fit for purpose.</p>	<p>Changes unlikely to be able to be implemented until the 2026 funding round.</p> <p>Substantive changes may be recommended by the SSAG, which could including an alternative funding mechanism.</p>



13 August 2024

**Via Email**

Hon Judith Collins  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
[Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Hon Judith Collins KC

Thank you for taking time to meet with the Marsden Fund Council.

The Council has taken your comments on improving communication of the value of the science investment on board and we will look to ensure the potential value to Aotearoa New Zealand is better reflected in the titles of projects to be announced in the current round.

The Council will also identify how it can provide more examples of the great science and its application arising from Marsden investments and will work with your office on that. It is our intention this will assist us all in communicating the value of science to a variety of audiences.

The Council is currently working on the updated investment plan covering the next three years of future investment rounds. The Council will work on ensuring that plan is grounded in potential long-term benefits to Aotearoa New Zealand.

We note the discussion at the meeting about the importance of innovation and the need for agility in a rapidly changing world. The Council strongly believes that the Marsden is very much the fund that provides that; being investigator-initiated highly competitive, and multidisciplinary, it operates at the frontier of new knowledge development and feeds innovation, often in unexpected ways. This is its core strength and captured in the Mission Statement.

**The Council's Mission Statement**

*To drive world-class research in New Zealand by supporting and incentivising excellent researchers to work on their best and boldest ideas and to connect nationally and internationally, leading to new knowledge and skills with the potential for significant downstream impact for New Zealand.*

Thank you again for meeting with us and we look forward to supporting your aspirations for the science, innovation and technology sector.

Nāku noa, nā

Professor Gill Dobbie (Chair of the Marsden Fund Council)

**Funding for research excellence**

The Marsden Fund is administered by Royal Society Te Apārangi, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140. Tel: +64 4 470 5799  
Email: [marsden@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:marsden@royalsociety.org.nz), <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>



Copy to:

*Danette Olsen (General Manager, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Kate Muise (Manager Specialised Investments, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Catherine Hunter (Principal Investment Manager, Specialised Investments, MBIE)*

*Paul Atkins (Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive, Royal Society Te Apārangi)*



## BRIEFING

### Revised Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund

<b>Date:</b>	25 September 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	0003110

Minister	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Judith Collins KC <b>Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology</b>	<b>Agree</b> the proposed changes to the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference <b>Approve</b> the draft letter informing council members of changes to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference	2 October 2024

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Landon McMillan	Manager, Science System Policy	049783448	s 9(2)(a) ✓
Abi Wood-Bodley	Policy Advisor, Science System Policy		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments



## BRIEFING

### Revised Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund

<b>Date:</b>	25 September 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	0003110

#### Purpose

This paper recommends changes to the Terms of Reference and lays out options for changes that could be made to the Marsden Fund Investment Plan, to ensure the Fund is supporting research with the potential to generate long-term economic, commercial, environmental, social, health and/or cultural benefits to New Zealand.

#### Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

- a **Agree** to the proposed changes to Marsden Fund’s Terms of Reference

*Agree/Disagree*

- b **Approve** the draft letter informing members of changes to the Terms of Reference

*Approved / Not approved*

- c **Indicate** your preference for an additional change requiring the Council to fund a minimum of 50% of proposals that have an economic benefit to New Zealand

*Agree / Disagree*

Landon McMillan  
**Manager, Science System Policy**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

..... / ..... / .....

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

..... / ..... / .....

## Background

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1. At your meeting with the Marsden Fund Council (the Council) and MBIE officials on 7 August 2024, you agreed to update the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Marsden Fund (the Fund) with the aim to place greater emphasis on research with long-term benefit to New Zealand (*briefing 2425-0224 refers*).
2. The ToR are your most direct lever to influence the purpose and operation of the Fund. The ToR guide the Council in developing the Fund's Investment Plan, setting the assessment criteria, and the decision-making processes over projects to support.
3. All Council members will be required to accept the updated ToR. A letter has been drafted to inform the Council members of changes made to the ToR, which is included in **Annex Two**.
4. The Council are currently developing a new Investment Plan for the Fund, which will be sent to you for approval. You have provided some direction to the Council on your priorities for the science system, these will be given effect through the Investment Plan refresh.

## Recommended changes to the Fund's Terms of Reference

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5. The nature of the Fund, as specified by the current ToR, is to invest in excellent, investigator led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with long-term benefit to New Zealand.
6. The ToR require all research proposals to be consistent with the nature and objectives of the Fund.
7. We propose:
  - a. Removing the statement that the research funded is not subject to Government's socio-economic priorities. Subjecting the research to the Government's long-term socio-economic priorities (over the 10-20 year horizon) could help to better demonstrate long-term benefit, without diminishing the blue skies nature of the fund.
  - b. Removing the separation between primary and secondary objectives so that contributing to long-term impacts for New Zealand is now a key objective.
  - c. Adding an explicit reference to the development of advanced technologies.
  - d. Adding a statement that asks proposals to demonstrate why their research could be of economic, societal, cultural, health or other benefit to New Zealand; and
  - e. Adding an objective that requires the fund to support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.
8. An additional option is to require the Council to fund a minimum of 50% of proposals with the potential for economic impact. However, this change would increase the overlap in research funded by the Marsden Fund and the Endeavour Fund.
9. These changes are consistent with your priorities for the Science, Innovation and Technology portfolio, s 9(2)(f)(iv)

## Blue skies research has long-term impacts

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10. The Fund is a highly prestigious blue skies fund. The aim of funding blue skies research is to support any potentially groundbreaking research that may challenge accepted paradigms, scientific theories, and/or to introduce entirely new fields. Blue skies research funds are commonly used internationally.
11. Blue skies and transformative research assume a high degree of technical risk, and not all projects achieve their intended impacts (eg, individual investments in a venture capital portfolio). Impact considerations include:
  - a. It can take up to 10-20 years for applied research to pay off, blue skies research can take longer. This impact is contingent on further non-research activities, including raising capital, market research, product development, and scaling.
  - b. Groundbreaking research and discovery would be of benefit to New Zealand but also raise our international profile and reputation.
  - c. The Fund is considered highly prestigious. It has played a key signalling role for researchers and can be credited with setting researchers up with successful careers.
12. Imposing strict criteria, or too strong of an adherence to Government priorities, could have the unintended consequence of limiting support for basic research that underpins knowledge, capability development, and opportunities for research commercialisation in the long run.
13. The proposed changes to the ToR balance the need to align investments to Government priorities without unduly limiting the blue skies nature of the fund.

## Signalling impact

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14. The Council has committed to monitoring economic, social, cultural, health or other impacts at the fund level over the long-term. It achieves this through contract monitoring, reporting on scholarly impact, and the development of case studies that highlight long term impact of the Marsden Fund. Case studies will be published in the coming months.

## Next steps

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15. The Council will be sending their 2025-2028 Investment Plan to you for your approval, prior to the 2025 Investment Round. We expect to receive this in the coming weeks. You will have the opportunity to input further into the Plan.
16. Send a letter to members of the Council informing them of the changes to the ToR, once agreed.

## Annexes

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Annex One: Marsden Fund Terms of Reference

Annex Two: Draft Letter

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# Marsden Fund

## Terms of Reference (2024)

### Nature of the Marsden Fund

1. The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams, and fosters creativity and innovation within the research, science and technology system. Exploring new ideas results in greater potential to develop of new technologies, products, boost economic growth, and enhance New Zealand's quality of life.
2. The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, social, environmental, health or other benefit to New Zealand.
3. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.

### Objectives of the Fund

4. The objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:
  - a) enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-led research.
  - b) contribute in the long-term to economic, social, environmental, health or other impacts for New Zealand.
  - c) support the advancement of knowledge and technology in New Zealand and contribute to the global knowledge base.
  - d) contribute to the development of advanced skills in New Zealand, including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.
  - e) support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

### Funding for research excellence

The Marsden Fund is administered by The Royal Society of New Zealand, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140  
Tel: +64 4 470 5799, Email: marsden@royalsociety.org.nz, <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>

## Access to the Fund

5. The Marsden Fund is to be operated as a fully contestable fund. Proposals for research will be sought, selected and funded on the basis of an open and contestable process.
6. The Marsden Fund is open to applicants who meet the Marsden Fund's eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria are determined by the Marsden Fund Council. The eligibility criteria must ensure successful proposals are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund stated above.
7. Applicants must be New Zealand-based researchers undertaking research to be carried out in New Zealand or overseas if its nature demands that it be carried out elsewhere. Collaborating researchers from outside New Zealand are able to be included in proposals but are not able to receive direct funding support for their time or institutional costs.
8. The Council may, from time to time, adjust the eligibility criteria of the Marsden Fund to increase its effectiveness in achieving the Marsden Fund's objectives.

## Types of Proposals Supported

9. Funds will be allocated for the support of research projects, or for the support of individual researchers, including post-doctoral researchers. Funds may also be used to provide scholarships to support work by post-graduate scholars, but such work should be designed as part of a larger project that conforms to the criteria for the scheme.
10. All proposals funded must be consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund and the selection criteria developed and published by the Marsden Fund Council.
11. All proposals must demonstrate why their research could be of economic, social, health or other benefit to New Zealand.
12. Approximately 50% of funds will go towards supporting proposals which have the potential to result in economic benefits to New Zealand.

## Costing and Funding of Proposals

13. Full-cost funding of proposals:
  - a) All Marsden Fund research shall conform to the principles of full-cost funding. Full costing shall include direct costs, associated personnel costs, and an appropriate share of overhead costs such as institutional administration and depreciation of research assets, including a share of equipment and buildings.
  - b) The Marsden Fund Council is responsible for assuring that the methodology by which institutions cost their proposals results in the appropriate share of overhead costs apportioned to the Marsden Fund.
14. Relationship of Marsden Fund proposals to complementary or related funding from other sources:
  - a) The Marsden Fund Council shall have the discretion to offer to fund, at full cost, a smaller project than the one proposed.
  - b) The Marsden Fund Council may require applicants to identify complementary and collaborative projects related to their proposal to the Marsden Fund, including the full cost and sources of funding for such projects.



## Investment Plan

15. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish an Investment Plan to be agreed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Investment Plan will be renewed periodically, and subject to minor annual adjustments to keep it up to date.
16. The Investment Plan will set out the strategic direction of the Fund, including how the Council will manage the Fund to achieve the objectives in these terms of reference and to give effect to other direction provided by the Minister in relation to managing the fund, but specifically excluding any direction from the Minister as to the funding or not of individual proposals.
17. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish selection criteria in the Investment Plan which are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund.

## Performance Framework

18. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish a Performance Framework for the Fund to be agreed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Performance Framework should describe a coherent plan to monitor the performance of the Fund and funded research against the strategy set out in the Investment Plan.
19. The Performance Framework should also consider the short, medium and long-term impact of the Fund.

## Disbursement of the Marsden Fund

20. The Marsden Fund shall be held in trust by the Royal Society of New Zealand (the Royal Society), and shall be disbursed according to these terms of reference. In disbursing the Marsden Fund, the Royal Society is acting as an agent of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology.
21. Any interest earned on Marsden Fund monies shall be accrued to the Marsden Fund and not used for any other purpose.
22. Advice as to how the funding shall be allocated will be sought from the Marsden Fund Council. The advice of the Marsden Fund Council on funding allocations shall normally be accepted by the Royal Society. The Marsden Fund Council must ensure its recommendations appropriately take into account, and do not exceed, the funding the Royal Society has received for the Marsden Fund from the Minister plus any interest on that funding.
23. In the event that advice on any funding allocation is not accepted by the Royal Society, the Royal Society shall immediately notify the Minister, in writing, that a disagreement has occurred and the reasons for non-acceptance of the advice. The Royal Society on behalf of the Minister shall then commission a review panel to review the Council's advice. Panel representatives shall include Ministerial, Royal Society and Marsden Fund Council nominee(s).
24. The Royal Society shall seek the Minister's approval of the final review panel and its terms of reference. The Minister shall have the final decision as to its acceptance or not of the review panel's decision to accept or reject the recommendation of the Marsden Fund Council. The results of the review shall be made known to all parties.

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# Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space



[CONTACT NAME]  
[COMPANY]  
<Email>

Dear [XXX],

I am writing to inform you of changes that have been made to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference.

The changes to the Terms of Reference place greater emphasis on supporting research with the potential to generate long-term economic, commercial, environmental, social, health and/or cultural benefit to New Zealand.

The changes to the Terms of Reference balance the need to align investment to Government priorities, while preserving the blue skies nature of the Marsden Fund.

The updated Terms of Reference are attached to this letter for your convenience.

Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the operation of the Marsden Fund, and I look forward to future engagement.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

**From:** [SITCoordinator](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy Smith \(Parliament\)](#); [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#); [Landon McMillan](#); [Joe McKay](#); [Abi Wood-Bodley](#); [Nic Scott](#); [Catherine Hunter](#); [Heather Penny](#); [Nic Blakeley](#); [Iain Cossar](#); [Michael Bird](#); [Danette Olsen](#); [Prue Williams](#); [Richard Walley](#); [Lee Robinson](#)  
**Cc:** [Briefings](#); [SITCoordinator](#); [Catherine Barnes](#); [Karen McDonald](#); [Lee Robinson](#)  
**Subject:** 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Wednesday, 25 September 2024 4:09:04 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund - Signed by L.McMillan.docx](#)  
[0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund - Signed by L.McMillan.pdf](#)  
[Annex One - Marsden Fund Terms of Reference .docx](#)  
[Annex One - Marsden Fund Terms of Reference .pdf](#)  
[Annex Two - Draft letter Marsden fund Terms of Reference - Hon JudithCollins KC.docx](#)

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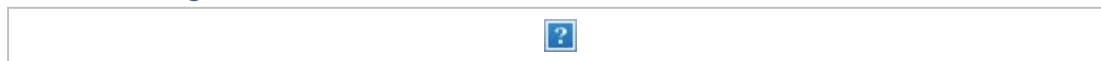
Good afternoon Jeremy and Harry,

Please see attached briefing Revised ToR – Marsden Fund

Many thanks,  
Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**

Ministerial Project Co-ordinator  
Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT / HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI**

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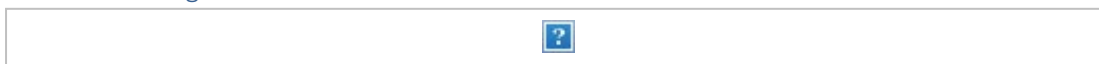
**From:** [SITCoordinator](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy Smith \(Parliament\)](#); [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#); [Abi Wood-Bodley](#); [Catherine Hunter](#)  
**Cc:** [SITCoordinator](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 October 2024 3:45:35 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund - Signed by L.McMillan.docx](#)  
[0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund - Signed by L.McMillan.pdf](#)  
[Annex One - Marsden Fund Terms of Reference .docx](#)  
[Annex One - Marsden Fund Terms of Reference .pdf](#)  
[Annex Two - Draft letter Marsden fund Terms of Reference - Hon JudithCollins KC.docx](#)

Hello Jeremy and Harry,

Could you please give us a ETA on how this briefing going in terms of sign out/comments from the Minister please

Many thanks,  
Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**  
Ministerial Project Co-ordinator  
Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT / HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI**

**From:** SITCoordinator  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024 4:07 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Harry Stanley (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Landon McMillan <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Joe McKay <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Abi Wood-Bodley <xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nic Scott <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nic Blakeley <xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Iain Cossar <xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Michael Bird <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Prue Williams <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Richard Walley <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Briefings <xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Catherine Barnes <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Karen McDonald <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE

Good afternoon Jeremy and Harry,

Please see attached briefing Revised ToR – Marsden Fund

Many thanks,  
Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**

Ministerial Project Co-ordinator  
Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management



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**From:** [Joe McKay](#)  
**To:** [Abi Wood-Bodley](#)  
**Subject:** FW: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Thursday, 10 October 2024 10:34:35 am  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:45 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Landon McMillan <xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Joe McKay <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE

Thanks Jeremy

We will get a revised ToR together, we will need this to be signed off by the Minister and sent to the Marsden Council.

Regards

Danette

**Danette Olsen** (she/her)

GENERAL MANAGER, SCIENCE SYSTEM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Science System Investment and Performance, Labour, Science and Enterprise  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (Hīkina Whakatutuki)

**Email - Īmera:** [xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](#) | **Mobile - Waea Pūkoro:** s 9(2)(a)

**Website - Pae-ipurangi:** [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) | **Postal - Poutāpeta:** 15 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓ 8.30am-5pm	✓ 7.30am-5pm	✓ 7.30am-5pm	✓ 7.30am-6pm	11am-3pm

✓ = In the office      = Working remotely

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**From:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:39 AM

**To:** SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Landon McMillan

<xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Joe McKay <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Abi Wood-Bodley

<xxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nic Scott <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Catherine Hunter

<xxxxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Iain Cossar

<xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Briefings <xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Barnes <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >;  
Karen McDonald <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Lee Robinson  
<xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Richard Walley  
<xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Prue Williams <xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Michael Bird  
<xxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Nic Blakeley <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Harry Stanley  
(Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >

**Subject:** RE: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE

Good morning,

Unfortunately, I do not have a signed briefing for you on the Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund. However, I've had the following comments passed through in relation to updating the terms of reference:

Marsden TOR, could we please update them to:

- Removing focus on cultural outcomes
- Measuring quantifiable impact rather than 'scholarly impact'
- Add the percentage of funding to economic outputs to 50% as suggested by officials.

Kind regards,  
Jeremy

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**From:** SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 25, 2024 4:07 PM

**To:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Harry Stanley  
<xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Landon McMillan <xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Joe  
McKay <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Abi Wood-Bodley <xxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Nic  
Scott <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather  
Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Nic Blakeley <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Iain Cossar  
<xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Michael Bird <xxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen  
<xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Prue Williams <xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Richard Walley  
<xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

**Cc:** Briefings <xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >;  
Catherine Barnes <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Karen McDonald  
<xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >

**Subject:** 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE

Good afternoon Jeremy and Harry,

Please see attached briefing Revised ToR – Marsden Fund

Many thanks,  
Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**  
Ministerial Project Co-ordinator



Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management

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PO Box 1473 Wellington | Level 6, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6011 | **s 9(2)(a)**

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## BRIEFING

### Updated Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund

<b>Date:</b>	11 October 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	0005052

Minister	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Judith Collins KC <b>Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology</b>	<b>Agree</b> to the proposed changes to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference.  <b>Approve</b> the draft letter informing Marsden Fund Council Members of changes to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference.	16 October 2024

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Landon McMillan	Manager, Science System Policy	049783448	s 9(2)(a)	✓
Abi Wood-Bodley	Policy Advisor, Science System Policy			

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments



## BRIEFING

### Updated terms of Reference – Marsden Fund

<b>Date:</b>	11 October 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	0005052

### Purpose

To seek your agreement to further proposed changes to the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference, to ensure the fund is supporting research with the potential to generate long-term economic, environmental, social, health and/or other benefits to New Zealand.

### Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Agree** to the proposed changes to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference *Agree / Disagree*
- b **Approve** the draft letter informing Marsden Fund Council members of changes to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference *Agree / Disagree*

Landon McMillan  
**Manager, Science System Policy**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

..... / ..... / .....

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and  
Technology**

22, 10, 24  
..... / ..... / .....

## Background

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1. At your meeting with the Marsden Fund Council (the Council) and MBIE officials on 7 August 2024, you agreed to update the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Marsden Fund (the Fund) with the aim to place greater emphasis on research with long-term benefit to New Zealand (*briefing 2425-0224 refers*).
2. The ToR is your most direct lever to influence the purpose and operation of the Fund. The ToR guide the Council in developing the Fund's Investment Plan, setting the assessment criteria, and the decision-making processes over projects to support.
3. On 13 August 2024, you received correspondence from the Council's Chair, Professor Gill Dobbie, to formally notify you that the Council are updating the Fund's Investment Plan.
4. We have previously provided you with recommendations of changes that could be made to the Fund's ToR to better align with your priorities (*briefing – 0003110 refers*).
5. Correspondence from your office on 9 October 2024, indicated that you would like further changes made to the ToR. This briefing summarises and seeks agreement to those changes.
6. The updated ToR are attached as **Annex One**, and an updated draft letter to the Council members informing them of changes to the ToR is attached as **Annex two**.

## Summary of changes to the Terms of Reference

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7. Correspondence from your office requested additional changes to be included in the Fund's ToR, including:
  - a. the removal of focus on cultural benefit;
  - b. the additional requirement for the Performance Framework to consider the short, medium, and long-term impact of the Fund;
  - c. the requirement that 50% of funds be allocated to proposals with the potential to result in economic benefit for New Zealand.
8. These proposed changes have been reflected in the ToR in the nature and objectives of the Fund, the types of proposals supported by the Fund, and the Performance Framework section, on top of our previously recommended changes (*briefing-0003110 refers*).
9. The draft letter informing Council members of changes to the ToR has also been updated to reflect these changes, alongside an additional line acknowledging the recent correspondence from the Council's Chair, Professor Gill Dobbie.

## Next steps

---

10. The Council will be sending their 2025-2028 Investment Plan to you for your approval, prior to the 2025 Investment Round. We expect to receive this in the coming weeks. You will have the opportunity to input further into the Plan.
11. Send a letter to members of the Council informing them of the changes to the ToR, once agreed.

## **Annexes**

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Annex One: Updated Marsden Fund Terms of Reference

Annex Two: Draft Letter

## **Annex One: Updated Marsden Fund Terms of Reference**

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**Annex Two: Draft Letter**

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# Marsden Fund

## Terms of Reference (2024-2017)

### Nature of the Marsden Fund

1. The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams, and fosters creativity and innovation within the research, science and technology system. Exploring new ideas results in greater potential to develop of new technologies, products, boost economic growth, and enhance New Zealand's quality of life.
2. The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, social, cultural, environmental, health or other benefit to New Zealand.
- 2-3. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand. ~~The research is not subject to government's socio-economic priorities.~~

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### Objectives of the Fund

3-4. The ~~primary~~ objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:

- a) enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-led research.
- a)b) ~~contribute in the long-term to economic, social, cultural, environmental, health or other impacts for New Zealand.~~
- b)c) support the advancement of knowledge and technology in New ~~Zealand, and Zealand and~~ contribute to the global knowledge base.

4. ~~The secondary objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:~~

- d) contribute to the development of advanced skills ~~and technologies~~ in New Zealand, including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.

~~or~~

- e)e) Support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

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### Funding for research excellence

The Marsden Fund is administered by The Royal Society of New Zealand, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140  
Tel: +64 4 470 5799, Email: marsden@royalsociety.org.nz, <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>



## Access to the Fund

5. The Marsden Fund is to be operated as a fully contestable fund. ~~Thus proposals~~ proposals for research will be sought, ~~and proposals~~ selected and funded on the basis of an open and contestable process.
6. The Marsden Fund is open to applicants ~~who that~~ meet the Marsden Fund's eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria are determined by the Marsden Fund Council. The eligibility criteria must ensure successful proposals are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund stated above.
7. Applicants must be New Zealand-based researchers undertaking research to be carried out in New Zealand or overseas if its nature demands that it be carried out elsewhere. Collaborating researchers from outside New Zealand are able to be included in ~~proposals, but proposals but~~ are not able to receive direct funding support for their time or institutional costs.
8. ~~Otherwise, the~~ Council may, from time to time, adjust the eligibility criteria of the Marsden Fund to increase its effectiveness in achieving the Marsden Fund's objectives.

## Types of Proposals Supported

9. Funds will be allocated for the support of research projects, or for the support of individual researchers, including post-doctoral researchers. Funds may also be used to provide scholarships to support work by post-graduate scholars, but such work should be designed as part of a larger project that conforms to the criteria for the scheme.
10. All proposals funded must be consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund and the selection criteria developed and published by the Marsden Fund Council.
11. ~~All proposals must demonstrate why their research could be of economic, social, environmental, cultural, health or other benefit to New Zealand.~~
12. ~~Approximately 50% of funds will go towards supporting proposals geared towards which have the potential to result in economic outcomes/benefits to New Zealand.~~
- 10.

## Costing and Funding of Proposals

### 11.13. Full-cost funding of proposals:

- a) All Marsden Fund research shall conform to the principles of full-cost funding. Full costing shall include direct costs, associated personnel costs, and an appropriate share of overhead costs such as institutional administration and depreciation of research assets, including a share of equipment and buildings.
- b) The Marsden Fund Council is responsible for assuring that the methodology by which institutions cost their proposals results in the appropriate share of overhead costs apportioned to the Marsden Fund.

### 11.14. Relationship of Marsden Fund proposals to complementary or related funding from other sources:

- a) The Marsden Fund Council shall have the discretion to offer to fund, at full cost, a smaller project than the one proposed.

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- b) The Marsden Fund Council may require applicants to identify complementary and collaborative projects related to their proposal to the Marsden Fund, including the full cost and sources of funding for such projects.

### Investment Plan

~~13.15.~~ The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish an Investment Plan to be agreed by the Minister of Science, ~~and~~ Innovation and Technology. The Investment Plan will be renewed periodically, and subject to minor annual adjustments to keep it up to date.

~~14.16.~~ The Investment Plan will set out the strategic direction of the Fund, including how the Council will manage the Fund to achieve the objectives in these terms of reference and to give effect to other direction provided by the Minister in relation to managing the fund, but specifically excluding any direction from the Minister as to the funding or not of individual proposals.

~~15.17.~~ The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish selection criteria in the Investment Plan which are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund.

### Performance Framework

~~18.~~ The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish a Performance Framework for the Fund to be agreed by the Minister of Science, ~~and~~ Innovation and Technology. The Performance Framework should describe a coherent plan to monitor the performance of the Fund and funded research against the strategy set out in the Investment Plan.

~~16.19. The Performance Framework should aim to demonstrate also consider the short, medium and long-term impact of the Fund. beyond scholarly impact.~~

### Disbursement of the Marsden Fund

~~17.20.~~ The Marsden Fund shall be held in trust by the Royal Society of New Zealand (the Royal Society), and shall be disbursed according to these terms of reference. In disbursing the Marsden Fund, the Royal Society is acting as an agent of the Minister of Science, ~~and~~ Innovation and Technology.

~~18.21.~~ Any interest earned on Marsden Fund monies shall be accrued to the Marsden Fund and not used for any other purpose.

~~19.22.~~ Advice as to how the funding shall be allocated will be sought from the Marsden Fund Council. The advice of the Marsden Fund Council on funding allocations shall normally be accepted by the Royal Society. The Marsden Fund Council must ensure its recommendations appropriately take into account, and do not exceed, the funding the Royal Society has received for the Marsden Fund from the Minister plus any interest on that funding.

~~20.23.~~ In the event that advice on any funding allocation is not accepted by the Royal Society, the Royal Society shall immediately notify the Minister, in writing, that a disagreement has occurred and the reasons for non-acceptance of the advice. The Royal Society on behalf of the Minister shall then commission a review panel to review the Council's advice. Panel representatives shall include Ministerial, Royal Society and Marsden Fund Council nominee(s).

~~21.24.~~ The Royal Society shall seek the Minister's approval of the final review panel and its terms of reference. The Minister shall have the final decision as to its acceptance or not of the review panel's decision to accept or reject the recommendation of the Marsden Fund Council. The results of the review shall be made known to all parties.

# Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space



Professor Gill Dobbie  
Chair of the Marsden Fund Council  
<Email>

Dear Professor Gill Dobbie,  
Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in August and thank you for your recent correspondence with regard to our discussion.

I am writing to inform you of changes that have been made to the Marsden Fund's Terms of Reference.

The changes to the Terms of Reference place greater emphasis on supporting research with the potential to generate long-term economic, environmental, social, health and/or other benefit to New Zealand.

The changes to the Terms of Reference balance the need to align investment to Government priorities, while preserving the blue skies nature of the Marsden Fund.

The updated Terms of Reference are attached to this letter for your convenience.

Thank you for your ongoing contribution to the operation of the Marsden Fund, and I look forward to future engagement.

Yours sincerely,

Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

**From:** [Abi Wood-Bodley](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy Smith \(Parliament\)](#); [SITCoordinator](#); [Landon McMillan](#); [Joe McKay](#); [Catherine Hunter](#); [Heather Penny](#); [Iain Cossar](#); [Danette Olsen](#); [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Briefings](#); [Catherine Barnes](#); [Karen McDonald](#); [Lee Robinson](#); [Lee Robinson](#); [Richard Walley](#); [Lee Shun Wong](#); [Prue Williams](#); [Michael Bird](#); [Nic Blakeley](#)  
**Subject:** Briefing 0005052 IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Friday, 11 October 2024 5:31:41 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[0005052 Updated Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund Signed LM.docx](#)  
[Annex One Marsden Fund ToR V2 final updated09102024 \(1\).docx](#)  
[Annex Two Draft letter Marsden fund Terms of Reference - Hon JudithCollins KC.dotx.docx](#)

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Kia ora Jeremy and Harry,

Please see the attached briefing: Updated Terms of Reference – Marsden Fund.

As per your earlier discussion with Landon, we're on quite tight timeframes with getting the Terms of Reference updated. Both the Terms of Reference, and the corresponding investment plan etc, are required to be updated ahead of the next Marsden round. The Marsden Fund council are currently working on their new investment plan, and they will require direction on the updated Terms of Reference in order to be able to finalise this plan.

We'd really appreciate anything you can do to help get this process moving as quickly as possible.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Abi Wood-Bodley** (she/her)

Policy Advisor | Kaitaatari Kaupapa

Science System Policy

Science and Space

[xxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx)

Level 6, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6011 | PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140, New Zealand



**From:** [Jeremy Smith](#)  
**To:** [SITCoordinator](#); [Landon McMillan](#); [Joe McKay](#); [Abi Wood-Bodley](#); [Nic Scott](#); [Catherine Hunter](#); [Heather Penny](#); [Nic Blakeley](#); [Iain Cossar](#); [Michael Bird](#); [Danette Olsen](#); [Prue Williams](#); [Richard Walley](#); [Lee Robinson Briefings](#); [Catherine Barnes](#); [Karen McDonald](#); [Lee Robinson](#); [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Tuesday, 22 October 2024 4:41:36 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[0961\\_001.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon,

Please find attached the signed briefing on the revised terms of reference for the Masden Fund.

Kind regards,

Jeremy

---

**From:** SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 September 2024 4:07 PM

**To:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Landon McMillan <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Joe McKay <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Abi Wood-Bodley <xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nic Scott <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Nic Blakeley <xxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Iain Cossar <xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Michael Bird <xxxxxxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Prue Williams <xxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Richard Walley <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

**Cc:** Briefings <xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Catherine Barnes <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Karen McDonald <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>; Lee Robinson <xxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>

**Subject:** 0003110 - Revised Terms of Reference - Marsden Fund IN-CONFIDENCE

Good afternoon Jeremy and Harry,

Please see attached briefing Revised ToR – Marsden Fund

Many thanks,

Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**

Ministerial Project Co-ordinator  
Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT / HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI**

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s 9(2)(a) [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) [xxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)

---



28 October 2024

**Via Email**

Hon Judith Collins

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

[Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Hon Judith Collins KC

Thank you for providing me with the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference (2024). I circulated them to the Marsden Fund Councillors today.

The Council will convene next week under urgency to ensure we successfully implement the Terms of Reference for the next selection round. We are pleased to see the Nature of the Fund retains the support of excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contribute to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand. We also acknowledge the change to place greater emphasis on supporting research with the potential to generate long-term economic, commercial, environmental, social and health benefits to New Zealand and a requirement to balance aligning the investment to Government priorities, while preserving the blue skies nature of the Marsden Fund.

The Investment Plan will now be re-scoped to ensure the settings for the Fund reflect the Terms of Reference (2024).

Thank you again for working with us and we look forward to supporting your aspirations for the science, innovation and technology sector.

Nāku noa, nā

Professor Gill Dobbie (Chair of the Marsden Fund Council)

**Funding for research excellence**

The Marsden Fund is administered by Royal Society Te Apārangi, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140. Tel: +64 4 470 5799

Email: [marsden@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:marsden@royalsociety.org.nz), <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>

Copy to:

*Danette Olsen (General Manager, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Heather Penny (Acting Manager Specialised Investments, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Catherine Hunter (Principal Investment Manager, Specialised Investments, MBIE)*

*Paul Atkins (Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive, Royal Society Te Apārangi)*

07 November 2024

**Via Email**

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

[Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Judith.Collins@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Hon Judith Collins KC

Last week the Marsden Fund Council met under urgency to implement the changes within the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference (2024). We have reworked the Marsden Fund Investment Plan to account for the new Terms. Furthermore, the Council has provided considered thought and input as to how the Council will give direction to selection criteria for the 2025 funding round. To this end, I provide you with the Investment Plan 2025-2027 (Annex 1) and the Assessment Criteria (Annex 2) that will be used to select successful awards.

It is my understanding that you wish to announce the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference, and the Investment Plan at the same time. It is my hope that the work the Council has done will ensure this is as smooth as possible.

If you are not able to announce the Terms of Reference in the near future, we seek your comfort in publishing the Terms of Reference on the Royal Society Te Apārangī website on **Tuesday 19 November 2024**. This will ensure that we can communicate these important changes to researchers and organisations in time for the upcoming 2025 funding round which is scheduled to open around 06 December 2024.

If there is anything further you need, please contact me.

Nāku noa, nā



Professor Gill Dobbie (Chair of the Marsden Fund Council)

**Funding for research excellence**

The Marsden Fund is administered by Royal Society Te Apārangī, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140. Tel: +64 4 470 5799

Email: [marsden@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:marsden@royalsociety.org.nz), <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>



Copy to:

*Danette Olsen (General Manager, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Heather Penny (Acting Manager Specialised Investments, Science System Investment and Performance, MBIE)*

*Catherine Hunter (Principal Investment Manager, Specialised Investments, MBIE)*

*Paul Atkins (Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive, Royal Society Te Apārangi)*

# Mahere Haumi o Te Pūtea Rangahau a Marsden

## Marsden Fund Investment Plan 2025-2027

Prepared by the Marsden Fund Council  
for the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Whiringa-ā-rangi November 2024

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Supported by the New Zealand Government with funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Nā te Hīkina Whakatutuki te mana hāpai.

**Tē Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**

New Zealand Government

# Whakataki

## Introduction

The Marsden Fund (the Fund) encourages Aotearoa New Zealand's leading researchers to explore bold new ideas that foster creativity and innovation within the science innovation and technology system. The Marsden Fund Council (the Council) manages the Fund on behalf of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology.

The Fund has an important place within New Zealand's funding landscape. In a research system where some parts are governed to deliver outcomes according to a set of transparent national priorities, it is important that investigators are supported to pursue research and suggest new ideas, solutions, opportunities, and eventually new national priorities.

The Council notes that throughout history the most significant applied outcomes are built on discovery research. There are countless examples, but applications in the areas of computing, electronics, mobile phones and the internet are obvious ones. Thus, we see investigator-led research as the seedbed of ideas that can spill over and feed New Zealand's innovation pipelines.

Knowledge of ourselves, of our world, and of our relationship to the rest of the world provides the basis of an informed, socially cohesive, and culturally confident nation. This is fundamental to the Fund's operation and requires that it supports a research community with a broad focus to ensure it can deliver long-term outcomes and benefits for all of New Zealand. By supporting a wide range of research activities, we can ensure that our research community will be well placed to meet the uncertain demands of the future and to be resilient against any unknown challenges that may arise.

This Investment Plan (the Plan) sets out the strategic direction of the Fund, including how it will be managed to achieve its objectives and contribute to New Zealand's research strategy, vision and goals.

The Marsden Fund Council will make funding decisions and allocate the Fund as set out in the Guidelines (published annually) aligning to the Plan.

The Plan will be updated periodically. Changes are intended to provide updates on funding projections, reaffirm signals about the Fund's investment direction and to provide signals on changes which are being phased in over several years.

## From the Terms of Reference (2024)

### Nature of the Marsden Fund

1. The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams and fosters creativity and innovation within the science innovation and technology system. Exploring new ideas results in greater potential to develop new technologies, products, boost economic growth, and enhance New Zealand's quality of life.
2. The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, social, environmental, health or other benefit to New Zealand.
3. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.

### Objectives of the Fund

4. The objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:
  - a) enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-led research.
  - b) contribute in the long-term to economic, social, environmental, health or other impacts for New Zealand.
  - c) support the advancement of knowledge and technology in New Zealand and contribute to the global knowledge base.
  - d) contribute to the development of advanced skills in New Zealand, including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.
  - e) support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

## Te rautaki ahu whakamua o te Kaunihera Marsden mō te Pūtea

### The Marsden Council's strategic direction for the Fund

The Council has a mission statement for the Fund to ensure supported proposals are consistent with, and complementary to, the Fund's high-level nature and objectives.

The Fund is deliberately aimed at supporting the advancement of knowledge and technology to contribute to the global knowledge base. This support of discovery research is essential in maintaining and building a diverse research ecosystem, in part because we cannot truly anticipate the nature of some of the future challenges we will face. The research careers developed through these grants will play a central role in providing research capability for this unclear future. Innovations or new knowledge are generated by highly specific work, or the cross-fertilisation of disciplinary areas, or the creation of new liminal spaces where traditional knowledge and science find new applications and understanding.

Investigator-led research lays knowledge foundations and develops skills which can lead to transformative benefits in the long-term. The Fund will invest in research proposals which have the potential to have high impact across a range of outcomes. Investing for impact doesn't mean we expect all research to have immediate, tangible outcomes. However, the research we invest in needs to have a line of sight to the potential benefits for New Zealand - these could be in economic, social, environmental, health or other domains. Investing in these opportunities, where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand, will ensure that the Fund provides opportunities of interest and value for the country. The Council will monitor the awarded grants to ensure approximately 50% of the Fund supports proposals which have the potential to result in economic benefit to New Zealand.

The Council's Mission Statement summarises how the Fund will be managed to deliver on its objectives, including impact.

---

*To drive world-class research for New Zealand by supporting and incentivising excellent researchers to work on their best and boldest ideas leading to new knowledge and skills with the potential for significant downstream impacts for New Zealand*

---

The Plan should be read together with the following information available on the Marsden Fund's webpages:

- [Marsden Fund Terms of Reference](#)
- [Marsden Fund](#)
- [Marsden Fund Council](#)

## Ngā āhuatanga pūtea e wātea ana

### The funding mechanisms available

Research organisations can apply for funding through three mechanisms: Fast-Start, Standard or Marsden Fund Council Award categories.

- Fast-Start awards are aimed at emerging researchers (generally up to seven full-time years after the conferment of their PhD).
- Standard awards are larger grants open to all researchers.
- Marsden Fund Council Awards are open to all researchers and are aimed at supporting interdisciplinary projects (the Council is scheduled to review this category in 2026).

## Te Tukanga Tuku Pūtea o Marsden

### The Marsden funding process

Proposals submitted to the Fund are assessed for their research excellence and potential impact. An annual call for proposals will normally be made in early December and the initial closing date for proposals will normally be late February.

Fast-Start and Standard proposals are reviewed in a two-stage process: eligible researchers submit an Expression of Interest to one of the discipline-based assessment panels, and selected applicants are then invited to submit a full proposal. Applicants for Marsden Fund Council Awards submit a full proposal in a one-stage application process to coincide with the Expression of Interest deadline.

The guidelines for the annual call set out the information about applying and the decision-making processes. The Plan should be read together with the:

- Guidelines for Applicants (which also includes application and submission guidelines for the funding round).
- Guidelines for Council and Panel members (which sets out the assessment criteria and the amount of funding available).

### He aha ngā pūtea kei te wātea?

#### What funding is available?

The Plan sets out the value and duration of funding available.

#### Award categories

	Maximum amount per year (excl. GST)	Duration
Fast-Start	\$120,000	Up to 3 years
Standard	\$220,000-320,000 (varies by panel)	Up to 3 years
Marsden Fund Council Award	\$1 million	Up to 3 years

Table 1: Current maximum value and duration of awards

#### Overall investment

The decisions of the Council in determining how to invest in the various categories are based on the following principles. The majority of funding is set aside to support researchers on the Standard awards and emerging researchers on Fast-Start awards to pursue their boldest and brightest ideas. The funding pool is allocated with the aim of ensuring that both Standard and Fast-Start awards have an approximately equal likelihood of success. With the Marsden Fund Council Award, approximately 8% of the fund is set aside to support large scale research in any discipline that increases national and international connectedness (a potential to fund two \$3 million awards per year). The Council is keen to fund interdisciplinary proposals that, in the long-term, may lead to transdisciplinary research outcomes. However, if the Council were to support more than two Marsden Fund Council Awards, it

would lead to a reduction in funding (and outcome success) for the other categories. The projected investments in the award categories are shown in Figure 1.

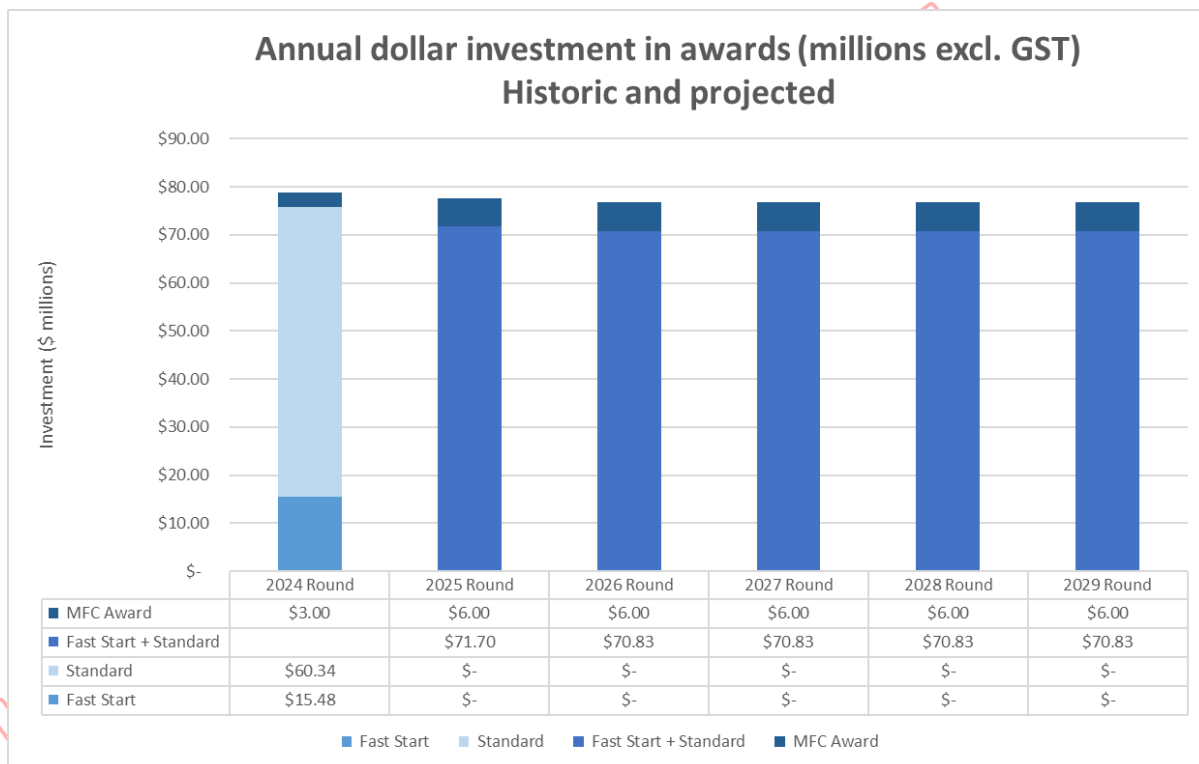


Figure 1: Value of Fast-Start, Standard and Marsden Fund Council awards made, 2019-2024

## Selection panels

With the Fund being open to all divisions of research, grouping these into discipline-based panels is useful in determining the best outcomes and most meritorious research to support. Panels allow for specialised, focused evaluation of research proposals based on the expertise and specific needs of different communities. By organising research into distinct panels, reviewers with domain-specific knowledge can more accurately assess the quality, innovation, feasibility, and impacts of a proposal. This approach ensures that funding decisions are informed by a deep understanding of the specific challenges and advancements within each field, leading to more appropriate and effective allocation of resources. Additionally, it fosters the development of high-quality, cutting-edge research by aligning support with the specific goals and methodologies of the discipline.

The funding amount invested in each panel is determined by the Council on an annual basis. Figure 2 shows the share of funding awarded through each selection panel over the last six years. This is an indication of the mix of disciplines covered by the Fund. In reality, a given research contract may span several disciplines.

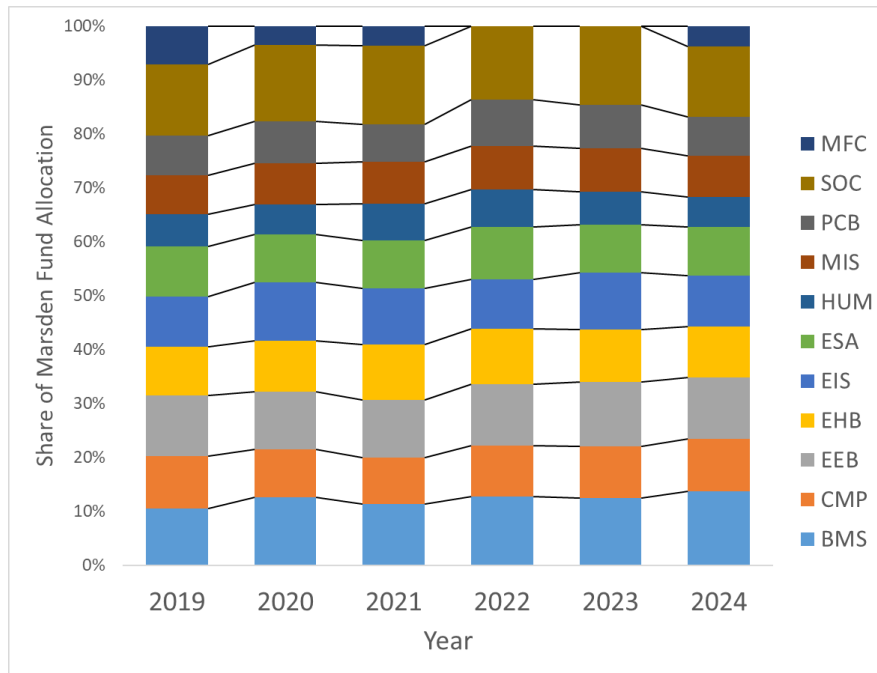


Figure 2: Share of investment by selection panel, 2019-2024

## He Wawata Mātauranga Vision Mātauranga

The Vision Mātauranga policy aims to create a better future for all New Zealanders through the innovative potential of Māori knowledge, resources, and people. Vision Mātauranga applies across, and is integrated within, all MBIE investment mechanisms including the Marsden Fund.

Where applicable, proposals must consider the relevance of the Vision Mātauranga policy. We expect that Vision Mātauranga will not be relevant to all proposals. Proposals that give effect to Vision Mātauranga should demonstrate the relevance and use of a fit-for-purpose approach.

## Ngā otinga e matapaehia ana o te Mahere Haumi Expected outcomes from the Investment Plan

The Council will invest in proposals that align to the objectives of the Fund and are deemed most likely to deliver outcomes in research, impact and connectivity.

### Research

The Council wants researchers to be ambitious and take risks in search of new knowledge. The bold nature of such research means individual Marsden grants will vary widely in their actual scholarly impact. Investigator-led research leading to scholarly impact is an expected outcome of the Marsden Fund. This will develop future research leaders and experts who can help New Zealand meet future challenges.



## Impact

Discovery research is a first step on the pathway leading to significant economic, social, environmental, health or other impacts for New Zealand over the long-term. The Council will measure long-term impact at the Fund level to champion excellence in research and scholarship and showcase the difference this has made to enhance New Zealand's quality of life through new technologies, products, and boosting economic growth. Approximately 50% of the Funds will go towards supporting proposals which have the potential to result in economic benefit to New Zealand.

## Connectivity

Providing support for a diverse range of discovery research through avenues such as the Marsden Fund is an efficient means of linking researchers into wider networks. This connectivity helps New Zealand to be flexible and able to address new challenges *and* opportunities outside our current research priorities. The Marsden Fund Council Award helps to stimulate creativity and take advantage of local and global knowledge by allowing much greater cross-discipline, institutional and international collaboration and connectivity.

## Ngā whāinga pūtea mō te Kōpaki Pūtea Rangahau a Marsden

### Portfolio targets for the Marsden Fund

The Council assesses the performance of the Fund with systematic monitoring and reporting to ensure that best practice is being followed. Data and indicators are published in the Fund's Performance Framework.

## Assessment Criteria

### Research

- Proposals must use an interdisciplinary approach to significantly expand research possibilities and ambition through new researcher and institutional links (*note: MFCA-only*)
- Proposals must have the potential for significant scholarly impact\* because of the proposal's novelty, originality, insight and ambition.
- Proposals must be rigorous, and should have a basis in prior research and use a sound research method.
- The research team must have the ability and capacity to deliver.

### Benefit

- Proposals must demonstrate why the research could be of economic, social, environmental, health or other benefit to New Zealand.
- Proposals should demonstrate a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.
- Proposals should develop research skills in New Zealand, particularly those at the post-doctoral level and emerging researchers.

### Vision Mātauranga

- Proposals must consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga and, where relevant, how the project will engage with Māori.

\***Scholarly impact** is a demonstrable contribution to shifting understanding and advancing methods, theory and application across and within disciplines.

**From:** [Harry Stanley](#)  
**To:** [Catherine Hunter](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED Tuesday, 19  
**Date:** November 2024 2:00:51 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Hi Catherine,

Sorry didn't get back to you earlier, things are flat out here – on your previous email the version Jeremy sent you is the correct version.

Thanks for pointing this out. Had a quick chat with the advisors and they are fine with that language – given the core science activities are defined later and that the fund is intended for blue-skies research there is a broad remit for more fundamental science.

Thanks,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

M s 9(2)(a)  
Email: [xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xp](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xp) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

UCT

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**From:** Catherine Hunter <[xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 12:59 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)>  
**Subject:** FW: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Harry

I was preparing a clean version for signature and about to PDF for you when I noticed this paragraph and wanted to check it aligns with the Ministers thinking - doesn't really align with her words of wanting a core focus on science?

*This is fundamental to the Fund's operation and requires that it supports a research community with a broad focus to ensure it can deliver long-term outcomes and benefits for all of New Zealand By supporting a wide range of research activities, we can ensure that our research community will be well placed to meet the uncertain demands of the future and to be resilient against any unknown challenges that may arise.*

Thanks Catherine

---

**From:** Catherine Hunter  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:33 AM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

I haven't checked to see if any changes were made subsequently to this? These are track changes made by Jeremy

---

**From:** Harry Stanley <[xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 19, 2024 11:01 AM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <[xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Catherine,

I don't have a clean version with the changes – if you can provide me one I will get the Minister's signature applied.

Thanks,  
Harry

**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

REF

@



Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
 Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
 Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space  
 M: s 9(2)(a)  
 Email: xxxxx@xxxxxx.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz  
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

**From:** Catherine Hunter <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2024 7:38 AM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** FW: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Good morning Harry

Could you provide me with a clean version that is signed for me to provide to the Marsden Council.  
 Thankyou  
 Catherine

**From:** Harry Stanley <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <[redacted]>; Landon McMillan <[redacted]>  
**Cc:** Heather Penny <[redacted]>; Abi Wood-Bodley <[redacted]>; Jessica Taylor <[redacted]>; Danette Olsen <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** RE: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Catherine,

Sorry for the delay – bag only came back and confirming a couple of questions with the advisors.

The Minister has signed the revised plan. Landon re: your questions on re-appointments could we please have advice by **CoP Thursday** on this? The Advisors have requested it by then.

Catherine your previous questions:

Is the Marsden Investment Plan as send to us on Friday the final version?

- Yes

The Minister has agreed to remove the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel?

- The panels are no longer referenced.

Do you require the letter to reply to Professor Gill Dobbie today to let her know -I can include the final version of the Investment Plan without markups?

- Yes can we please have a draft letter from the Minister.

Ngā mihi,  
 Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
**Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP**  
 Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
 Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
 Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space  
 M: s 9(2)(a)  
 Email: xxxxx@xxxxxx.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz  
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

**From:** Catherine Hunter <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[redacted]>  
**Cc:** Heather Penny <[redacted]>; Abi Wood-Bodley <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Harry

UCT

REF

@

Just to clarify

Is the Marsden Investment Plan as send to us on Friday the final version? The Minister has agreed to remove the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel?

Do you require the letter to reply to Professor Gill Dobbie today to let her know -I can include the final version of the Investment Plan without markups?

A few small changes will be required to the Terms of Reference as well.

Thanks Catherine

Ngā mihi

Catherine Hunter

Principal Investment Manager, Specialised Investments

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Level 6

15 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6145, New Zealand



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## BRIEFING

### Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council

<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Urgent
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	BRIEFING-REQ-0006530

Minister	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Judith Collins KC <b>Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology</b>	<b>Agree</b> to the additional changes to the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference.  <b>Approve</b> the draft letter to the Marsden Fund Council.	21 November 2024

#### Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Landon McMillan	Manager, Science System Policy	0449783448	9(2)(a) ✓
Abi Wood-Bodley	Policy Advisor		

#### The following departments/agencies have been consulted

--

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments



## BRIEFING

### Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council

<b>Date:</b>	20 November 2024	<b>Priority:</b>	Urgent
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	BRIEFING-REQ-0006530

#### Purpose

To provide you with the updated Marsden Fund Terms of Reference, and a draft letter to the Marsden Fund Council informing them of changes to the Marsden Fund Investment Plan and the Terms of Reference.

#### Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Agree** to the additional changes to the Marsden Fund Terms of Reference
- b **Approve** the draft letter to the Marsden Fund Council

*Agree/Disagree*

*Approve*

Landon McMillan  
**Manager, Science System Policy**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

20 / 11 / 2024

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and  
Technology**

*2 / 12 / 24*

## Background

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1. You received correspondence from the Marsden Fund Council (the Council) Chair, Professor Gill Dobbie on 7 November 2024, to provide you with their draft Investment Plan and Assessment Criteria for your review and sign off.
2. We received correspondence from your office on 18 November 2024 including the version of the Investment Plan with your revisions and signature.
3. We have updated the Marsden Fund's (the Fund) Terms of Reference (ToR) to reflect the changes you have made to the Investment Plan. The updated ToR are attached as **Annex One**.
4. We have previously provided you advice on recommendations of changes to the Funds ToR to better align the Fund with your priorities (*briefing – 0005052 refers*).
5. A letter to the Council has been drafted on your behalf to inform them of changes to the Investment Plan and the ToR. The draft letter is attached as **Annex Two**.
6. This briefing summarises and seeks your agreement to the further changes made to the ToR and seeks your approval for the draft letter to the Council.

## Summary of Changes to the ToR

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7. The ToR have been updated to reflect some of the changes you have made to the investment plan.
8. These include the removal of "social and other" impact in the nature and objectives sections.

## Draft Letter to the Council

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9. The draft letter summarises your changes to the Investment Plan, and notes that the ToR have been updated to reflect the changes made to the Investment Plan.
10. Furthermore, the draft letter reiterates the importance of blue skies research and reemphasises the focus toward core science.
11. The draft letter also makes reference to the announcement, stating that the updated terms of reference and investment plan may be published on the Royal Society website after your announcement of changes to the Funds ToR.
12. We will work with your office on appropriate announcement timing, to facilitate the opening of the 2025 round for applications.

## Risks

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13. Adopting a focus on core science will not be well received by parts of the research sector. Excluding social sciences and humanities means there will be a reduction in external research funding underpinning research-based teaching in the university system for these areas.



14. It is not clear that this would be covered by funding from the Higher Education sector. You may wish to discuss this with the Minister of Tertiary Education and Skills.
15. The upcoming 2025 funding round will also be delayed as changes will need to be made to the process.

### **Next steps**

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16. Send the letter to the Council, once approved.
17. We will work with your office on appropriate announcement timing.

### **Annexes**

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Annex One: Updated Terms of Reference

Annex Two: Draft letter to the Council

## **Annex One: Updated Terms of Reference**

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# Marsden Fund

## Terms of Reference (2024)

### Nature of the Marsden Fund

1. The Marsden Fund encourages New Zealand's leading researchers to explore new ideas that may not be funded through other funding streams and fosters creativity and innovation within the science innovation and technology system. Exploring new ideas results in greater potential to develop of new technologies, products, boost economic growth, and enhance New Zealand's quality of life.
2. The Marsden Fund invests in excellent, investigator-led research aimed at generating new knowledge, with the potential for long-term economic, ~~social, environmental~~ or health ~~or other~~ benefit to New Zealand.
3. It supports excellent research projects that advance and expand the knowledge base and contributes to the development of people with advanced skills in New Zealand.

### Objectives of the Fund

4. The objectives of the Marsden Fund are to:
  - a) enhance the quality of research in New Zealand by creating increased opportunity to undertake excellent investigator-led research.
  - b) contribute in the long-term to economic, ~~social, environmental~~ or health ~~or other~~ impacts for New Zealand.
  - c) support the advancement of knowledge and technology in New Zealand and contribute to the global knowledge base.
  - d) contribute to the development of advanced skills in New Zealand, including support for continuing training of post-doctoral level researchers and support for the establishment of early careers of new and emerging researchers.
  - e) support research where there is a clear rationale for the research to be undertaken in New Zealand.

### Funding for research excellence

The Marsden Fund is administered by The Royal Society of New Zealand, PO Box 598, Wellington 6140  
Tel: +64 4 470 5799, Email: [marsden@royalsociety.org.nz](mailto:marsden@royalsociety.org.nz), <http://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/funds-and-opportunities/marsden>

## Access to the Fund

5. The Marsden Fund is to be operated as a fully contestable fund. Proposals for research will be sought, selected and funded on the basis of an open and contestable process.
6. The Marsden Fund is open to applicants who meet the Marsden Fund's eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria are determined by the Marsden Fund Council. The eligibility criteria must ensure successful proposals are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund stated above.
7. Applicants must be New Zealand-based researchers undertaking research to be carried out in New Zealand or overseas if its nature demands that it be carried out elsewhere. Collaborating researchers from outside New Zealand can be included in proposals but are not able to receive direct funding support for their time or institutional costs.
8. The Council may, from time to time, adjust the eligibility criteria of the Marsden Fund to increase its effectiveness in achieving the Marsden Fund's objectives.

## Types of Proposals Supported

9. Funds will be allocated for the support of research projects, or for the support of individual researchers, including post-doctoral researchers. Funds may also be used to provide scholarships to support work by post-graduate scholars, but such work should be designed as part of a larger project that conforms to the criteria for the scheme.
10. All proposals funded must be consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund and the selection criteria developed and published by the Marsden Fund Council.
11. All proposals must demonstrate why their research could be of economic, ~~social,~~ environmental ~~or,~~ health ~~or other~~ benefit to New Zealand.
12. Approximately 50% of funds will go towards supporting proposals which have the potential to result in economic benefits to New Zealand.

## Costing and Funding of Proposals

13. Full-cost funding of proposals:
  - a) All Marsden Fund research shall conform to the principles of full-cost funding. Full costing shall include direct costs, associated personnel costs, and an appropriate share of overhead costs such as institutional administration and depreciation of research assets, including a share of equipment and buildings.
  - b) The Marsden Fund Council is responsible for assuring that the methodology by which institutions cost their proposals results in the appropriate share of overhead costs apportioned to the Marsden Fund.
14. Relationship of Marsden Fund proposals to complementary or related funding from other sources:
  - a) The Marsden Fund Council shall have the discretion to offer to fund, at full cost, a smaller project than the one proposed.
  - b) The Marsden Fund Council may require applicants to identify complementary and collaborative projects related to their proposal to the Marsden Fund, including the full cost and sources of funding for such projects.

## Investment Plan

15. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish an Investment Plan to be agreed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Investment Plan will be renewed periodically, and subject to minor annual adjustments to keep it up to date.
16. The Investment Plan will set out the strategic direction of the Fund, including how the Council will manage the Fund to achieve the objectives in these terms of reference and to give effect to other direction provided by the Minister in relation to managing the fund, but specifically excluding any direction from the Minister as to the funding or not of individual proposals.
17. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish selection criteria in the Investment Plan which are consistent with the nature and objectives of the Marsden Fund.

## Performance Framework

18. The Marsden Fund Council will develop and publish a Performance Framework for the Fund to be agreed by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology. The Performance Framework should describe a coherent plan to monitor the performance of the Fund and funded research against the strategy set out in the Investment Plan.
19. The Performance Framework should also consider the short, medium and long-term impact of the Fund.

## Disbursement of the Marsden Fund

20. The Marsden Fund shall be held in trust by the Royal Society of New Zealand (the Royal Society) and shall be disbursed according to these terms of reference. In disbursing the Marsden Fund, the Royal Society is acting as an agent of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology.
21. Any interest earned on Marsden Fund monies shall be accrued to the Marsden Fund and not used for any other purpose.
22. Advice as to how the funding shall be allocated will be sought from the Marsden Fund Council. The advice of the Marsden Fund Council on funding allocations shall normally be accepted by the Royal Society. The Marsden Fund Council must ensure its recommendations appropriately take into account, and do not exceed, the funding the Royal Society has received for the Marsden Fund from the Minister plus any interest on that funding.
23. In the event that advice on any funding allocation is not accepted by the Royal Society, the Royal Society shall immediately notify the Minister, in writing, that a disagreement has occurred and the reasons for non-acceptance of the advice. The Royal Society on behalf of the Minister shall then commission a review panel to review the Council's advice. Panel representatives shall include Ministerial, Royal Society and Marsden Fund Council nominee(s).
24. The Royal Society shall seek the Minister's approval of the final review panel and its terms of reference. The Minister shall have the final decision as to its acceptance or not of the review panel's decision to accept or reject the recommendation of the Marsden Fund Council. The results of the review shall be made known to all parties.

## **Annex Two: Draft Letter to the Council**

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# Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space



Professor Gill Dobbie  
Chair of the Marsden Council

Dear Professor Dobbie,

Thank you for your letter of 7 November 2024 and thank you for your rapid response to the updated Terms of Reference for the Marsden Council.

I have reviewed the Investment Plan and have made some substantial changes. The approved Investment Plan is attached to this letter. The changes have necessitated further changes to the Terms of Reference which are also attached. My office is working to announce these at the soonest appropriate opportunity. Following my announcement of these changes, you may publish them on the Royal Society Te Apārangi website and announce the opening of the 2025 Marsden Funding Round.

By providing a clear direction to fund blue skies research that will have the potential to benefit the economy, health or environment we will ensure we get the balance of research right and that sufficient funding is going to core science. We are focused on a system that supports growth, and a science sector that drives high-tech, high-productivity, high-value businesses and jobs.

I am very supportive of blue skies research that has the potential to be disruptive and to have real impacts on the economy. Such impact will come from the core science areas such as physics, chemistry, maths, engineering and biomedical sciences.

And finally, I would like research to be funded based on its potential to achieve quantifiable impact, rather than scholarly impact.

The Marsden Fund will continue to support excellent researchers in New Zealand, that are looking to create a better country for us all.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judith Collins'.

Hon Judith Collins KC  
**Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology**

**From:** [SITCoordinator](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy Smith \(Parliament\)](#); [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#); [Jessica Taylor](#); [Landon McMillan](#); [Abi Wood-Bodley](#); [Catherine Hunter](#); [Iain Cossar](#); [Danette Olsen](#); [Nic Blakeley](#); [Michael Bird](#); [Dean Ford](#); [Paul Metcalf](#); [Heather Penny](#); [Richard Walley](#); [Astrid Smeele](#); [Hilary Candiliotis](#)  
**Cc:** [Briefings](#); [SITCoordinator](#); [NONE NONE](#); [Esra Erdönmez](#); [Karen McDonald](#); [Lee Shun Wong](#); [Catherine Barnes](#); [Pania Prince](#); [Phillippa Ward](#)  
**Subject:** BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 12:12:54 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council - Signed by L.McMillan.pdf](#)  
[BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council - Signed by L.McMillan.docx](#)  
[Annex One Updated Terms of Reference.docx](#)  
[Annex Two Draft Letter to the Council.dotx](#)

---

Good afternoon,

Please see attached briefing Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council

Many thanks,  
Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**

Ministerial Project Co-ordinator  
Labour, Science and Enterprise Group  
Group Operations  
Business Management



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT / HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI**

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s 9(2)(a) [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) [xxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)



**From:** [Catherine Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Harry Stanley \(Parliament\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Abi Wood-Bodley](#); [Landon McMillan](#)  
**Subject:** FW: BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2024 2:22:14 pm  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council - Signed by L.McMillan.pdf](#)  
[BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council - Signed by L.McMillan.docx](#)  
[Annex One Updated Terms of Reference.docx](#)  
[Annex Two Draft Letter to the Council.dotx](#)  
[MF-Investment-Plan-2025-27 .pdf](#)

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Hi Harry

Can you please make sure the revised Investment Plan (as attached here) is signed by Minister Collins and sent with the letter and the revised Terms of Reference to Gill Dobbie. Can you please let me know when this is sent.

Thanks Catherine

---

**From:** SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 12:11 PM  
**To:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Harry Stanley (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx>; Jessica Taylor <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Landon McMillan <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Abi Wood-Bodley <Abi.Wood-xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Iain Cossar <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Danette Olsen <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Nic Blakeley <xxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Michael Bird <xxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Dean Ford <xxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Paul Metcalf <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Heather Penny <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Richard Walley <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Astrid Smeele <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Hilary Candiliotis <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Briefings <xxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; SITCoordinator <xxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; NONE NONE <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Esra Erdönmez <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Karen McDonald <xxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Lee Shun Wong <xxxxxx.xxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Catherine Barnes <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Pania Prince <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Philippa Ward <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** BRIEFING-REQ-0006530 - Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Good afternoon,

Please see attached briefing Marsden Fund – Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Council

Many thanks,

Lisa

**Lisa Seng (she/her)**

Ministerial Project Co-ordinator

Labour, Science and Enterprise Group

Group Operations

Business Management

[Redacted]

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RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** [Heather Penny](#)  
**To:** [Jeremy Smith \(Parliament\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Catherine Hunter](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE  
**Date:** Thursday, 5 December 2024 11:06:40 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[JC Signed 0006530 Marsden Fund - Updated Terms of Reference and Letter to Chair.pdf](#)  
[FW Letter from Hon Judith Collins KC .msg](#)

Kia ora Jeremy,

Just to confirm – MBIE did not discuss the detailed changes to the Investment Plan, until the attached briefing note was signed / the letter had been sent from the Minister to Gill Dobbie.

The briefing / letter were signed 3 December.

Nāku, nā  
Heather

---

**From:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 8:57 AM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Cc:** Harry Stanley (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx> **Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Good morning,

The Minister has signed the briefing approving the updated terms of reference for the Marsden Fund. I will make sure the letter to the Chair is sent out today, as the Ministe4r has signed this as well.

Kind regards,  
Jeremy

---

**From:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 1:13 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Many thanks Harry, as you can imagine the Marsden Fund is anxious to hear what the changes are, and has delayed the opening of the fund, raising questions from the sector, and a revised opening date cannot be provided at this point. It probably will not open this year as new guideline documents, portal updates etc will be required..  
Catherine

---

**From:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2024 1:03 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Catherine,

The briefing is with the Minister to hopefully sign off today – if that occurs we will send the letter before the PR (aiming for Wednesday as you note) and the revised documents, we will update you as these events happen for your awareness.

Ngā mihi,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

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Email: [xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

---

**From:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Harry  
Very quick follow up here -Hilary Candiliotis has told me that she expects there to a PR on Wed re the Marsden Fund. Can you please let me know when the letter to Gill Dobbie is being sent which will include the revise ToR and Investment Plan?

Many thanks Catherine

---

**From:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2024 5:32 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Catherine,

Noted re the PR – this has been made clear with the office.

The last update I received on sign off of the ToR and letter will be early next week.

Thanks,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space  
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Email: xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 November 2024 5:26 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Thankyou Harry

Can you please check that the Marsden Fund Council, through Gill Dobbie receives the letter re the revised ToR and IP **before** there is any press release. I will let the Society know about the holding words, although they have probably gone for the weekend. Are you able to say when the Minister is likely to send the letter to Gill Dobbie? The Council secretariat have not been informed of the likely changes and are not able to prepare for the revised information/guidance documents and portal build required to open the round.

Happy Friday  
Many thanks Catherine

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**From:** Harry Stanley <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 29, 2024 5:14 PM  
**To:** Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >

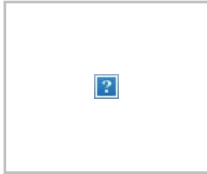
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Hi Heather,

Terribly sorry this was missed – I have just had a chance to run this by the advisors and they are OK with generic holding lines as proposed.

Once again, sorry for that, hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Thanks,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

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Email: [xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

UCT

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**From:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 28 November 2024 11:15 AM

**To:** Harry Stanley <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Harry,

Thanks for keeping us updated. Further to my description of the delays, there's some other context which is relevant to the overall timeline:

- Research Offices typically close in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December, which is very soon. The fund then typically closes for applications in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of Feb – this leaves very little time for the sector to develop their proposals.
- The Society normally does roadshows, to provide the sector with details of the Fund and to answer Q&A. This engagement will be particularly important if the Fund's settings are changing. Given the delays, RSNZ moved these to a virtual format. In terms of timing, there is a risk that the Society will not be able to deliver the virtual roadshows in time for the Fund opening.
- As well as updating the guidance documents, the Society also needs to change their portal to reflect the changes to the Fund.

RSNZ is currently fielding questions from the sector on the next funding round, which they are unable to respond to as they do not know when they will be opening, or what the new settings will be. We do recognise that the Minister is incredibly busy, but I wanted to test whether the MO would be comfortable with RSNZ placing some 'holding comms' on their website, to confirm that a new Investment Plan and Terms of Reference will be published shortly?

Let me know what you think,

Nāku, nā  
Heather

---

**From:** Harry Stanley <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024 5:15 PM

**To:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Thanks Heather – I'll let you know if there are any follow up questions.

Hoping the ToR will get signed off soon.

Ngā mihi,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

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Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

---

**From:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 November 2024 3:57 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>; Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <[xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

Thanks Harry,

The fund typically opens about now. The Royal Society will need time to publish the new document and update their website to reflect the new direction of the fund. As well as publishing the new IP and TOR, the Royal Society will need to develop and publish details of a modified panel process (different panel composition and assessment criteria re: economic benefit).

[MF-2024-Guidelines-Council-and-Panel-Members-v3.pdf](#) – an example of the guidelines from last year.

Is that sufficient?

Ta  
Heather

---

**From:** Harry Stanley <[xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 27, 2024 3:50 PM  
**To:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <[xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council IN-CONFIDENCE

[SEEMAIL][IN-CONFIDENCE]

Kia ora Heather,

Have checked in again on the status of the paper.

The Minister has not signed the paper yet and it is unlikely to be signed by the end of this week – the team here are aware of the need for the PR to go out before anything can happen.

There was a question asked about paragraph 15 of the briefing, why will the funding round need to be delayed.

Could I please have a short line/paragraph for the advisors about why process changes will incur a delay?

Thanks,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

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Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

UCT

REF

@

**From:** Heather Penny <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 November 2024 3:40 PM  
**To:** Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Harry Stanley <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Harry,

Just checking in re: Marsden. Are you able to provide any update on timing?

Thanks  
Heather

**From:** Danette Olsen <xxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 8:16 AM  
**To:** Harry Stanley (Parliament) <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks, I appreciate the Minister is very busy, but anything you can to move this along would be helpful. Also do you know if the press release will go out this week? We need to let the RSNZ know before its public.

d

**Danette Olsen** (she/her)  
GENERAL MANAGER, SCIENCE SYSTEM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE  
Science System Investment and Performance, Labour, Science and Enterprise  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (Hikina Whakatutuki)  
**Email - Īmera:** xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx | **Mobile - Waea Pūkoro:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Website - Pae-ipurangi:** [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) | **Postal - Poutāpeta:** 15 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140



Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-6pm	10am-2pm

✓ = In the office      = Working remotely

**From:** Harry Stanley <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Monday, November 25, 2024 5:47 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith (Parliament) <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Heather Penny <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Catherine,

Just letting you know the briefing was put to the Minister over the weekend, but we haven't received it back yet.

Thanks,  
Harry

**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space  
M: § 9(2)(a)



Email: [xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

**From:** Harry Stanley  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 1:26 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Heather Penny <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Jeremy Smith <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council

Thanks Heather and Danette,

Sorry I didn't see your email during that meeting.

As the changes to the ToR came up as a briefing it was unlikely to have been signed while the Minister is overseas.

Ngā mihi,  
Harry



**Harry Stanley**  
Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

M: s 9(2)(a)  
Email: [xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

**From:** Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2024 12:53 PM  
**To:** Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Heather Penny <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Harry Stanley <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council

Ok, thanks for letting me know.

**From:** Danette Olsen <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2024 12:45 PM  
**To:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>; Harry Stanley (Parliament) <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)>; Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council

Hi Orson advised that it will go in the Ministers weekend bag for Monday sign out.

We can't advise RSNZ until the letter goes

Thanks

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**Danette Olsen** (she/her)  
GENERAL MANAGER, SCIENCE SYSTEM INVESTMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Science System Investment and Performance, Labour, Science and Enterprise  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (Hikina Whakatutuki)

Email - Īmera: [xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx) | Mobile - Waea Pūkoro: s 9(2)(a)  
Website - Pae-ipurangi: [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz) | Postal - Poutāpeta: 15 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140

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✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-5pm	✓ 8am-6pm	10am-2pm

✓ = In the office = Working remotely

**From:** Heather Penny <xxxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 22, 2024 12:03 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley (Parliament) <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >; Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Danette Olsen <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** Requesting update on Marsden communication to the Council  
**Importance:** High

Kia ora Harry,

Please can you give us an update on whether the letter has gone from the Minister to Professor Gill Dobbie yet (along with the approved Investment Plan and TOR).

I believe this was due to go by today, latest?

Note this letter must go out before the Minister's press release (ideally with some advance notice).

If you can give us an update that would be great.

Many thanks  
 Heather

**From:** Harry Stanley <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Catherine Hunter <xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Landon McMillan <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Cc:** Heather Penny <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Abi Wood-Bodley <xxx.xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Jessica Taylor <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >; Danette Olsen <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** RE: Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Kia ora Catherine,

Sorry for the delay – bag only came back and confirming a couple of questions with the advisors.

The Minister has signed the revised plan. Landon re: your questions on re-appointments could we please have advice by **CoP Thursday** on this? The Advisors have requested it by then.

Catherine your previous questions:

Is the Marsden Investment Plan as send to us on Friday the final version?

- Yes

The Minister has agreed to remove the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel?

- The panels are no longer referenced.

Do you require the letter to reply to Professor Gill Dobbie today to let her know -I can include the final version of the Investment Plan without markups?

- Yes can we please have a draft letter from the Minister.

Ngā mihi,  
 Harry

**Harry Stanley**  
 Private Secretary (Science, Innovation & Technology) | Office of Hon Judith Collins KC MP  
 Attorney-General | Minister of Defence | Minister for Digitising Government  
 Minister Responsible for the GCSB | Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
 Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology | Minister for Space

REF

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Email: [xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xz](mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xz) Website: [www.Beehive.govt.nz](http://www.Beehive.govt.nz)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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**From:** Catherine Hunter <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 1:41 PM  
**To:** Harry Stanley <[xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Cc:** Heather Penny <[xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>; Abi Wood-Bodley <[xxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** Marsden UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Harry

Just to clarify

Is the Marsden Investment Plan as send to us on Friday the final version? The Minister has agreed to remove the Humanities and Social Sciences Panel?

Do you require the letter to reply to Professor Gill Dobbie today to let her know -I can include the final version of the Investment Plan without markups?

A few small changes will be required to the Terms of Reference as well.

Thanks Catherine

Ngā mihi

Catherine Hunter  
Principal Investment Manager, Specialised Investments  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

Mobile: s 9(2)(a)

Level 6

15 Stout Street, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6145, New Zealand



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