



Office of Hon Bill English

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Finance
Minister Responsible for HNZZ

18 APR 2016

Iain Palmer
fyi-request-3814-a0108feb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Iain Palmer

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 28 March 2016. You requested:

*"Have the government books returned to surplus, if not when are they expected to?
When the books returned, or will return, to surplus what is the level of debt?
How does this debt compare to GDP?"*

Information Publicly Available

The following information is covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	14 October 2015	Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand for the Year Ended 30 June 2015, Operating balance before gains and losses.	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/government/financialstatements/yearend/jun15/10.htm The Government returned to surplus as at 30 June 2015, with an operating balance before gains and losses surplus of \$414 million.
2.	14 October 2015	Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand for the Year Ended 30 June 2015, Net debt \$ and % of GDP.	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/government/financialstatements/yearend/jun15/11.htm Net debt at 30 June 2015 was \$60,631 million (25.2% of GDP).

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

This fully covers the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance