

Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance and Labour Party Finance Spokesperson

Dear Minister

We are writing to request that the Government either:

1. Commissions a wholly Independent Inquiry into the COVID-19 economic response; or
2. Confirms that Labour members of the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee are not being instructed to vote against opening an Inquiry into the COVID-19 Economic Response.

From March 2020, the Reserve Bank, through its monetary policy levers, and your Government, through its fiscal policy response, took unprecedented steps to provide financial stimulus and support to the economy. The impact of these measures has been wide-ranging: with house price growth exceeding 28% in 2021, consumer price inflation now at a 32 year high and inflation having exceeded target levels for a period of 15 months.

We note your comment of 9 September 2021 that “a more comprehensive evaluation” of the economic response would “be considered once we are beyond the current phase of the pandemic, when more data should be available about the impacts of the measures.”

As a clear, coordinated, independent Inquiry has not been signalled anytime soon, we think Parliament’s Finance and Expenditure Committee is an appropriate vehicle for conducting such an Inquiry. This would allow evidence to be analysed, submissions to be heard and recommendations to be made for the future.

However, Labour members on the Finance and Expenditure Committee have for more than five months opposed a motion from Chlöe Swarbrick requesting that the committee conduct an Inquiry into the Economic Response to COVID-19.

We think it would be helpful if you would indicate that you are not opposed to such an Inquiry taking place at FEC.

If you oppose such an inquiry taking place through the Finance and Expenditure Committee, we ask that you clearly set out when and how an independent evaluation of the COVID-19 economic response will occur.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Willis



Chlöe Swarbrick



Damien Smith



Debbie Ngarewa-Packer



Rawiri Waititi