

# Hon Jo Luxton

MP for Rangitata

Minister of Customs

Associate Minister of Agriculture (Animal Welfare)

Associate Minister of Education



Dave James  
BeGin Distilling Ltd  
By email: [dave@begin.org.nz](mailto:dave@begin.org.nz)

Soren Crabb  
1919 Distilling Ltd  
By email: [info@1919distilling.com](mailto:info@1919distilling.com)

Tēnā koe Dave

Thank you for your email dated 11 August 2023 to Rt Hon Chris Hipkins suggesting the government introduce an Excise Rebate scheme to assist New Zealand-based distillers to compete against distilleries operating in countries which have such a scheme. Your letter has been referred to me for a response.

I understand and acknowledge the challenges that the hospitality sector is facing in a post-COVID-19 environment. As you may be aware, the purpose of Aotearoa New Zealand's excise regime is to both raise revenue for the Crown, and to moderate harmful alcohol consumption.

A rebate or exemption scheme for alcohol excise is not currently under consideration. As you will know the 2023 General Election is fast approaching and as this is a policy decision that you are asking the Government to consider, it might be more appropriate for you to reach out to the new Executive following the outcome of the 2023 General Election to discuss this proposal further.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jo Luxton'.

Hon Jo Luxton  
**Minister of Customs**

CC: Rt Hon Chris Hipkins, Prime Minister  
Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance