

# Changes to Council of Presidential Advisers

The Government has agreed to strengthen the council by expanding it from six to eight members. The president must also consult the CPA on all fiscal matters related to reserves and key appointments before using his vetoes, and Parliament can vote to override these vetoes. But the Government did not agree on the areas below:



CURRENT APPROACH	COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL	GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE
<b>Parliamentary override</b>		
<p>If most of the CPA agree with a veto, Parliament cannot override it. This includes tie-breakers.</p>	<p>If most of the CPA agree with a veto, Parliament cannot override it. If the chairman breaks a tie in favour of the president, Parliament can override the veto with a two-thirds majority.</p>	<p><b>Disagree</b> The proposed approach could inadvertently politicise how individual members voted.</p>
<p>If most of the CPA disagree with a veto, Parliament can override it with a two-thirds majority.</p>	<p>If most of the CPA disagree with a veto, Parliament can override it with a simple majority.</p>	<p><b>Not now</b> A "reasonable argument" can be made, but best to defer changes.</p>
<b>Accountability</b>		
<p>When Parliament can override, the CPA must disclose the total number of votes for and against to the president, prime minister and Speaker of Parliament.</p>	<p>The CPA must disclose individual votes and the grounds for its advice to the president.</p>	<p><b>Disagree</b> Giving a breakdown of individual votes could risk politicising the CPA.</p>
<p>If CPA recommends a veto on Supply, Supplementary Supply and Final Supply Bills, it must disclose the grounds for its advice to the president, prime minister and Speaker.</p>	<p>If the president uses his veto on areas where Parliament can override, he must disclose the individual votes and grounds for the CPA's advice to the prime minister and Speaker.</p>	<p><b>Partially agree</b> Individual votes should not be disclosed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the president uses his veto on fiscal matters, he should disclose the CPA's advice to the prime minister and Parliament.</li> <li>• If he uses it in other areas such as appointments, the CPA's advice should be disclosed to the prime minister.</li> <li>• If the Government invokes a parliamentary override, the CPA's advice should be disclosed to the Speaker.</li> </ul> </p>
<p>If the president does not veto Bills on government spending even though he thinks past reserves will be drawn upon, he must publish his opinion in the Gazette.</p>	<p>In addition to the current approach, the president must publish his opinion whenever he uses his veto in areas where Parliament can override.</p>	<p><b>Partially agree</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the president uses his veto on fiscal matters, he should publish his opinion.</li> <li>• If he uses it in other areas, he should give a written opinion to the prime minister.</li> <li>• If the Government invokes a parliamentary override, the president's opinion should be published in the Gazette.</li> </ul> </p>