**AIR1 782**

**Equipment Machine Account EDP**

**Dec 1955 to July 1959**

**Equipment Machine Account EDP August 1959 – Jan 1961**

**Need to check these files again to ensure contents**

**Machines - Statistical and Accounting Powers Samas and Hollerith 1938 – 1954**

Requests to use Powers Samas Tabulating Machinery from a number of organisations

1. Justification to save staff
2. Difficult to find enough 16 year old girls to train as operators

Organisations that sent requests

1. Public Service Commissioners
2. Land and Income Tax Department
3. Census & Statistics Department
4. National Broadcasting Office
5. Treasury
6. Education
7. Public Works Dept
8. Customs, Statistical Branch
9. DSIR
10. Department of Agriculture
11. Social Security Department
12. State Fire Department
13. Dept of Tourist & Health Resorts

Education 27 June 1945

Letter to Director of Education Mr Clements

From, G V Brooke, Wellington Representative for Burroughs Ltd

Burroughs Ledger Machine supplied recently for handling of Superannuation Accounts

2 June 1949

Discussion of Powers versus Hollerith

21 June 1949

BTM British Tabulating Machine Co Ltd also expressing interest. Told that amount of prospective punched card business in government is limited.

The practice of transferring equipment was widespread.

New Zealand Railways (not part of government at that time)  
Post and Telegraph Department  
Health Department (for recording of movements by mental patients)  
Totaliser Agency Board  
Department of Tourism and Publicity  
Department of Labour and Employment  
Ministry of Works  
State Fire and Accident Insurance Department  
Transport Department  
Education Department

4 August 1954

Treasury supports the recommendation made by the Director of Education that an expenditure of 1,700 pounds be authorised for the purchase of punched card equipment. Education Department is no longer able to have its work done satisfactorily in other departments. Proposal to pay teachers fortnightly instead of monthly, they are the only body of government employees not paid fortnightly.

**Machines – Other Departments – Computers – Electronic & Customs Import Licences 1955 – 1966**

[Continuing work carried out earlier & associated with the table Machines 1949 to 1974]

27/4/66 M E Williams

Committee established to consider applications for licences to import data processing equipment

Customs – Mr C J Foote

SSIR – Mr E Jones

Treasury – Mr M E Williams

Total funds allocated for 1966/67 import year at 919,000 pounds. Applications received 62 amounting to 2,078,377 pounds. Only 1/5th of equipment applied for can be approved. In some cases, Decimal Currency Board may assist in providing import licences but limited to amount which would have been provided for replacing conventional machines.

Main criteria justifying approval would be:

1. Increase in export earnings
2. Reduction in imports

Letter from Prime Minister’s Office received 24/12/1965

To Minister of Customs

Importation of Computers

Other than when scientific purposes are involved, priorities should be given in the following order

1. Manufacturing and producing companies with export trade or which use EDP equipment to control production process
2. Manufacturing companies who use EDP equipment for inventory control
3. Distributing and similar companies who use the equipment for internal economy and ease of administration

To meet the needs of smaller companies the Department should promote the usage of Bureau services and that no licences should be issued where these services are reasonable to meet a company’s requirement.

Cabinet Committee on the Importation of Computers

Acute shortage of trained personnel, 28 trained programmers left government for similar positions in commercial firms.

New installations already approved:

12 in 1966/67

21 in 1967/68

Existing shortage likely to be intensified.

12 September 1966

Cabinet Committee on the Importation of Computers Fri 16 Sept 1966 11.30am

Electronic Data Processing Equipment – Import Licencing Provision 1967/68

Committee set up with representatives from Treasury & DSIR – Committee chaired by Executive Officer of Customs. Applications for importation of computers for 1966.67 period totalled over 2 million pounds but funds available only amounted to 400,410 pounds. Additional funds made available by the Decimal Currency Board amounted to 138,715 for the machines the computers would replace that would have had to be changed anyway due to the switch to decimal.

P3 “At the present time, New Zealand is experiencing a major computerisation upsurge following a realisation by the commercial community of the potential of this type of equipment. Many firms have been planning for some time in this direction and in some instances considerable funds have been spent building construction or alterations, training of staff in programming procedures, and the employment of specialist consultants to ensure the best use of the computer when installed,”

P3 “The difficulties of the end-users have been aggravated to a large degree by the necessity to convert to decimal currency.”

Priority given to companies who bring in substantial foreign exchange.

Cabinet 19 Sept 1966

Committee on the Importation of Computers meeting Fri 16 Sept 1966 11.30

Doubt expressed that sufficient trained staff to operate all computers proposed to be imported. 35 computers (22 originally approved, 13 now proposed) would require 200 programmers. Government departments especially treasury would find it increasingly difficult to retain trained staff.

Prospective purchasers should be required to show that they intend to make arrangements for their own staff to be thoroughly trained.

P2(iv) “More use might be made of bureaus by prospective users so that the more sophisticated computers could be shared by a number of users instead of each purchasing simpler equipment at a greater overall cost in overseas exchange. Particular concern was expressed at the prospect of local authorities (including the Power Boards) buying their own computers instead of sharing facilities.”

7 Nov 1966

Cabinet Committee on the Importation of Computers

Electronic Data Processing Equipment – Import Licensing Provision 1967/68

14 November Meeting cancelled

Meeting held on Tuesday 29 Nov 1966 at 9.30

7 Dec 1966

At meeting on 5 Dec 1966 Cabinet deferred for two weeks a decision on recommendations list.

1. Assurances be given to NZ National Airways Corporation and the Waterfront Control Commission/Electronic Data Processing NZ Ltd
2. Agree to increase import licencing budget for 67/68 by 95,350 pounds
3. Decline various other applicants

16 Dec 1966

To: Minister of Finance

From P N Waller, Secretary to the Treasury

**Computer Usage in Government Services**

Report on Computer capacity in the Public Service & the extent to which it is being used effectively

**Treasury** 360 – 24 hours a day, 650 due for return shortly, 1401 – 130 hours per month

**Education** 1301 – 200 hours per month

**Statistics** 1620 – 3 shifts on statistical & census work

**DSIR** 503 – 300 hours per month & growing rapidly, scientific & technical work

**Railways** 1401 – 180 hours per month on railway work, 80 hours per month on inland revenue (this will eventually be transferred to Treasury)

**Post Office** – Burroughs 200 rented for 88 hours per month used for 80-90% of time available.

**Social Security** – IBM 360/20 on order to be fully used for warrant preparation and allied work

Other Government users of computers are:

1. Reserve Bank
2. Bank of New Zealand
3. New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation
4. Apple & pear board
5. Dairy Board

Any extensions of EDP work depend on availability of trained programmers, the current and future use of computers must be considered in relation to present shortage of suitable experienced personnel.

23 March 1967

Confirmation that M E Williams will continue to represent Treasury on the committee

12 Sept 1967

Inter-Departmental Computer Committee EDP Import Applications: 1968/69 Licensing Year

29 Sept 1967

Inter-Departmental Committee on Computer Imports

Meeting held 9am Thursday 28 Sept

IBM offering to bring into NZ 10 x 1401 computers ex Australia, overhaul them & make available for NZ customers. ICT are offering a similar deal. Declined as unlikely to satisfy existing demand.

3 Nov 1967

ICT (NZ) requesting clearance to import a fast core memory for their Wellington Computer Centre

8 Nov 1967

Letter to Comptroller of Customs

From M E Williams, Secretary to Treasury

ICT request not supported. Noted that two new bureau installations have been approved in Wellington, NCR & Burroughs for 1968/69 import year. A further bureau, Electronic Data Processing NZ Ltd will shortly be commencing operations in Wellington.

2 Feb 1968

M E Williams resigns from committee as he will be leaving treasury

7 Feb 1968

Mr A J Tucker is appointed as Treasury representative.

18 April 1968

Treasury noted in March issue of IBM Newsletter that National Airways corporation made decision to install two IBM 360/40. Concern that they already have ICT 1901 especially as one IBN is only a “spare” as back up for the other. Adverse public reaction could result.

2 May 1968

Memo from N W Laking for Comptroller of Customs

No assurance given to either IBM or National Airways Corporation that licences for importation will be issued. Application will be placed before inter-departmental committee with all relevant information.

29 Nov 1968

Data Processing Local Authorities

From Controller and Auditor General, The Audit Office

To: The Secretary to the Treasury

Local authorities purchasing electronic accounting machinery, better to spend the money on a computer that they can make joint use of. Salesman are pursuing this strategy as electronic accounting machines are not subject to import licencing whereas computers are.

21 Feb 1969

Reply from Treasury

Problem has arisen as some accounting machines have been wrongly designated for tariff purposes.

21 Feb 1969 Letter

From Treasury

To Customs

“There is considerable unsatisfied demand for computers and exemption from licencing without some alternative control would cause a sharp increase in importing which would lead to severe shortages of programmers and also have a serious effect on the balance of payments.”

30 January 1969

Data Processing Equipment – Import Licensing

Present computer “shortage” is encouraging some firms to make use of the services of computer bureaus which he considers in many cases, leads to a more efficient use of computers than would have been achieved if firms had acquired their own.

28 March 1969

File Note: EDP Computer Committee approves applications by Alex Harvey Industries & Grocers United Stores Ltd

7 May 1969

Import Licensing – Data Processing Equipment

Burroughs 4000 & 6000 series should be subject to import licence under item code for computers.

15 April 1970

From I G Lythgoe, Deputy Chairman

To: Hon R G Muldoon, Chairman, Cabinet Committee on Government Computer Services

Muldoon PM 1975-1984 at this time was the Minister of Finance

**Desk Top Computers Report on Machines Approved During 1969/70**

Approvals for desk top computers should be given by SSC as office machines in the normal way. During year ended 31st March 1970 – 11 units authorised by Commission at cost of $54,490.96

3 May 1974

Last item in file

To Mr Shailes

From H G Lang

Computer Purchasing Programme

Surprised to find that Treasury supported the purchased of a Justice computer costing $9 million. Also been told there is a very large Post Office computer worth $17 million in the pipeline.