



Parliament's Financial Scrutiny Cycle

This is a continuous cycle that goes for 2.5 years, with two separate processes happening at the same time.

December-March

Budget Policy Statement (BPS) published, setting out the Government's Budget priorities.

December-March

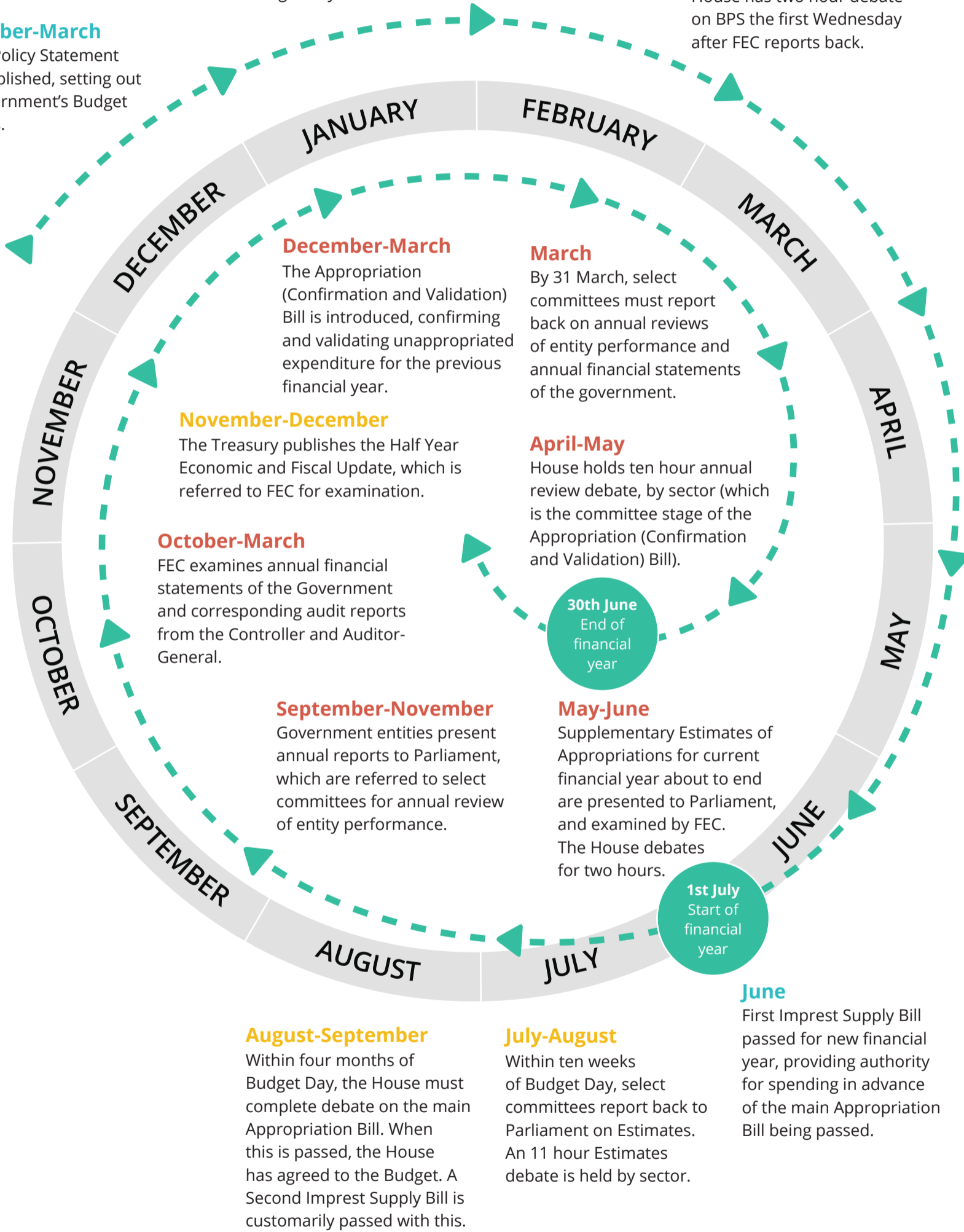
BPS referred to Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC), who scrutinises and reports back to the House within 40 working days. The Minister of Finance appears before the committee and usually announces the date for Budget Day.

February-March

House has two hour debate on BPS the first Wednesday after FEC reports back.

Key

- Future spending
- Current spending
- Past spending



December-March

The Appropriation (Confirmation and Validation) Bill is introduced, confirming and validating unappropriated expenditure for the previous financial year.

March

By 31 March, select committees must report back on annual reviews of entity performance and annual financial statements of the government.

November-December

The Treasury publishes the Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update, which is referred to FEC for examination.

April-May

House holds ten hour annual review debate, by sector (which is the committee stage of the Appropriation (Confirmation and Validation) Bill).

October-March

FEC examines annual financial statements of the Government and corresponding audit reports from the Controller and Auditor-General.

May

Budget Day- customarily in May. Main Appropriation Bill for coming financial year introduced. Minister of Finance delivers the Budget and Estimates of Appropriations. An 8 hour Budget debate begins.

September-November

Government entities present annual reports to Parliament, which are referred to select committees for annual review of entity performance.

May-June

Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations for current financial year about to end are presented to Parliament, and examined by FEC. The House debates for two hours.

May

Budget Day- FEC allocates Estimates to select committees. FEC also examines Fiscal Strategy Report and Budget Economic and Fiscal Update, which are presented on Budget Day.

1st July Start of financial year

June

First Imprest Supply Bill passed for new financial year, providing authority for spending in advance of the main Appropriation Bill being passed.

May-June

As part of select committees examination of Estimates, Ministers appear before select committees.

August-September

Within four months of Budget Day, the House must complete debate on the main Appropriation Bill. When this is passed, the House has agreed to the Budget. A Second Imprest Supply Bill is customarily passed with this.

July-August

Within ten weeks of Budget Day, select committees report back to Parliament on Estimates. An 11 hour Estimates debate is held by sector.

Want to know more?

For a full glossary and more information visit www.parliament.co.nz

