

Proactive Release

Date: 1 December 2021

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

(CAB-21-MIN-0377 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 20 September 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 September to 15 October 2021, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Washington, the United States; Stockholm, Sweden; Dublin, Ireland; and the United Kingdom for bilateral discussions;
 - 1.2 Paris, France to attend the OECD Ministerial meeting and bilateral discussions;
 - 1.3 Sorrento, Italy to attend the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting and bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3 **approved** the expenditure of up to \$83 815 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will be accompanied by one senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
 - 5.3 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet

Summary

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

The Minister for Trade and Export Growth recommends that Cabinet:

- 1 authorise his absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 September to 15 October 2021, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Washington, the United States, Stockholm, Sweden, Dublin, Ireland and the United Kingdom for bilateral discussions;
 - 1.2 Paris, France to attend the OECD Ministerial meeting and bilateral discussions;
 - 1.3 Italy to attend the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting and bilateral discussions;
- 2 agree that he be accompanied by one member of staff from his office;
- 3 approve the expenditure of up to \$83,815 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 note that he will be accompanied by one senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 agree that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
 - 5.3 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
- 6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Vivien Meek
For Secretary of the Cabinet

[RESTRICTED]

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States, Sweden, France, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Italy from 30 September – 13 October 2021.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of the travel, if approved, is to further advance the European Union – New Zealand Free Trade Agreement negotiations and to represent New Zealand at the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting in Italy, which New Zealand has been invited to this year in our capacity as chair of APEC.
- 4 En route to Europe, I propose to travel to the United States to ^{s6(a)}
advance New Zealand's trade and economic relationship with our third largest trading partner. This will also be an opportunity to discuss New Zealand – US cooperation in a range of regional and multilateral fora, including APEC and the WTO, with senior Biden administration officials (including US Trade Representative Tai) and members of US civil society.
- 5 Following my visit to Europe in June this year, my follow-up visit ^{s6(a)}
will be important to advance New Zealand's FTA negotiations with the EU at the political level. My proposed itinerary includes key partners for New Zealand ^{s6(a)}
- 6 Specifically, I propose to visit Stockholm ^{s6(a)}
- 7 I intend to visit Paris for two reasons. The first is to represent New Zealand at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, where I intend to advance New Zealand's interests in that important forum, alongside other OECD Trade Ministers. The second reason is to again press New Zealand's case for a high quality EU FTA with French Cabinet Ministers, including a further engagement with the Trade Minister ^{s6(a)}

I will also meet
with my European Commission counterpart in order to discuss the EU FTA and

highlight the importance of concluding a high quality agreement and bridging remaining differences without further delay.

8 s6(a)

I intend to visit Dublin to speak to counterparts s6(a) and demonstrate the broader opportunities that an FTA would present for both our countries. I intend to make a brief stop in the UK during the weekend where I will explore the possibility of an informal catch-up with Trade Secretary Truss.

9 Finally, in Italy, my visit would consist of two components. The first would be holding bilateral calls and engagements with my counterpart in Rome in support of our bilateral and EU FTA interests. The second would be representing New Zealand at the G20 Trade Ministers' Meeting, to which I have been invited by Italy as host, given New Zealand is chairing APEC this year. This high-level event in Sorrento, Italy, will be an opportunity to demonstrate what New Zealand has achieved this year in hosting APEC and where those priorities align with those of G20 and other invited partners. It would also be a further opportunity to engage with key counterparts on the EU FTA and on multilateral trade interests that New Zealand has.

10 I acknowledge the changing global situation with respect to COVID-19, and will continue to monitor developments in each host country. I will adapt my travel plans if necessary, including through contingency budgeting. My official delegation and I will undertake the requisite 14 days in MIQ.

Ministerial Party

11 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. One senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany me; their travel costs will be covered by the departmental budget.

Travel Costs

12 The estimated costs of my travel are:

	Minister	Staff
Flights	20,100	20,100
Ground transport	948	948
Accommodation	6538	5239
Per Diems	1719	1719
Facilitation	1598	1598

Representation	3775	0	
PCR Tests	1000	1000	
Gifts	400	0	
MIQ	3100	3100	
Subtotal	39178	33704	
Contingency 15%	5877	5056	
TOTAL	45055	38760	\$ 83815 NZD

Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Land Information: Hon David Parker

Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri

Trade and Export Growth: Hon Phil Twyford

Proactive release

14 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 September to 15 October to travel to the United States, Sweden, France, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Italy;

15.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;

15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$83,815 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

15.4 note that I will be accompanied by a one senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the department;

15.5 agree that Hon David Parker (Land Information); Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) and Hon Phil Twyford (Trade and Export Growth) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;

15.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Proactively released by the
Minister for Trade and Export Growth