

Proactive Release

Date: 11 July 2023

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-23-MIN-0198
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio Trade and Export Growth

On 29 May 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 3 to 11 June 2023, to travel to:
 - 1.1 London, United Kingdom to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting;
 - 1.2 Paris, France to be the Vice-Chair of the OECD Ministerial Conference meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$65,243.98 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 also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), whose costs will be met by MFAT;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Jo Luxton act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.3 Hon Kieran McAnulty act as Minister for Biosecurity;
 - 5.4 Hon Rino Tirikatene act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
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 Kingdom and France from 3-11 June 2023.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of the visit is to attend the Commonwealth Trade Ministers' Meeting (CTMM) in London, United Kingdom, and vice-chair the OECD Ministerial Conference Meeting (MCM) in Paris, France. If programming allows, I also propose to conduct meetings related to the NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement in London.
- 4 Trade remains a key driver for the overall economic recovery of Aotearoa New Zealand, emerging from two years dominated by the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated border closures.
- 5 In London I will attend the CTMM, which will represent the first chance to meet as Commonwealth Trade Ministers since before the pandemic, and will be an opportunity to take stock of developments in Commonwealth trade and investment since the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). The CTMM will reflect on how to deepen Commonwealth trade cooperation in inclusive and sustainable ways, and will include topics important to New Zealand and our region such as how trade policy can support climate change outcomes; how we can enable an inclusive digital transition; and how we can support and strengthen the multilateral trading system.
- 6 In Paris I will attend the OECD MCM, where I will be vice-chairing on behalf of New Zealand alongside the UK (Chair) and Costa Rica (other Vice-Chair). The MCM is well-attended by trade and economic Ministers and senior officials from its 38 Member States and provides an important platform for policy discussion. This year's focus is on a 'resilient future', enabled through shared values and global partnerships, particularly in the Indo-Pacific.
- 7 In my role as Vice-Chair, I will be in a position to influence and shape the discussions across a number of issues relating to economic resilience and the digital-climate change intersection. In these discussions, I will be able to demonstrate New Zealand's thought leadership in highlighting our inclusive Trade for All agenda and ambitious climate change goals. The MCM is also another important opportunity for New Zealand to advocate for the increased

visibility of issues affecting the Pacific, particularly given the MCM's Indo-Pacific focus.

- 8 I will also take the opportunity to meet bilaterally and in plurilateral settings with various counterparts, and build key trade relationships for New Zealand, including those from regions with which New Zealand has fewer opportunities for regular contact. At present, around 12 meetings are planned with a range of counterparts in the margins of the formal CTMM and OECD meetings, including the WTO Mini Ministerial dinner, an Ottawa Group breakfast, and the Digital Economic Partnership Agreement grouping.
- 9 The proposed travel particularly supports the implementation of the **Architecture** and **Resilience** pillars of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS 2.0), by contributing to strengthening New Zealand's relationships and our network of trade agreements, international and regional trade architecture, promoting diversification of trade, and mitigating supply chain pressures.

Ministerial Party

- 10 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office. Three officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will join as appropriate for elements of the London and Paris programme. The costs of these officials' travel will be met by the agency.

Travel Costs

- 11 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights/Train	\$37,179.98
Accommodation	\$7,334
Ground transport	\$400
Hospitality/representation	\$1,900
Total per diem	\$1,656
Gifts	\$500
Facilitation	\$5400
Interpretation	-
COVID-19 tests	-
Contingency of 20%	\$10,874
Total	\$65,243.98

Acting Ministers

- 12 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- Agriculture and Biosecurity - Hon Kieran McAnulty
 - Land Information - Hon Andrew Little
 - Trade and Export Growth - Hon Rino Tirikatene

Proactive release

- 13 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

- 14 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 14.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 3-11 June to travel to the United Kingdom and France;
 - 14.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
 - 14.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$65,243.98 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 14.4 note that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will be supporting me during these meetings, and officials' travel costs will be met from their departmental budgets;
 - 14.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Land Information), Hon Rino Tirikatene (Trade and Export Growth); and Hon Kieran McNulty (Agriculture, Biosecurity) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
 - 14.6 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