

Proactive Release

30 June 2023

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta	CAB-22-MIN-0301

Please note that there is no Cabinet Minute associated with this Cabinet Paper

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.

[IN CONFIDENCE]

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nanaia Mahuta

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Belgium and Sweden over Sunday 2 April – Sunday 9 April 2023 inclusive. Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has approved this travel in-principle.

Executive Summary

- 2 In Brussels over 4-5 April, I will attend the NATO AP4 Summit, and make use of the summit as a platform for engaging with a range of NATO and AP4 partners.
- 3 I will also make a short bilateral visit to Stockholm over 6-7 April to meet with Foreign Minister Billström, and build on our people to people connections, including between Māori and Sámi.
- 4 A visit to Belgium and Sweden would deliver on the following objectives:
 - Reiterate New Zealand remains in lock step with NATO and AP4 partners in supporting Ukraine's self defence in response to Russia's illegal invasion.
 - Signal New Zealand's clear concern about the deteriorating geostrategic environment and the importance we place on working with our like-minded partners to provide collective security, uphold the international rules-based order, and maintain a strategic environment that is consistent with our shared interests and values.
 - Reiterate the importance that New Zealand places on our long-standing relationship with NATO as a valued and like-minded partner. This is an opportunity for high-level engagement with NATO ^{s6(a)}
 - Continue to deepen our values based partnership with Sweden and thank Sweden for its steadfast support for the NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement, ^{s6(a), s9(2)(j)}
 - Reinforce the close connections and shared values between Sweden and New Zealand, including by strengthening the relationship between Māori and Sámi.

Outline of Proposed Programme

- 5 Officials are working to secure these programme elements, which will depend on the availability of my counterparts and Sámi contacts.
- 6 During two days in Brussels (4-5 April), I will:
 - attend the NATO AP4 Summit (5 April, half day);

- hold bilateral calls with a range of EU contacts, which may include Josep Borrell, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, and Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary General of NATO;
- hold bilateral meetings with various NATO members, subject to counterparts' availability (including possibly a meeting with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken);
- participate in a policy dialogue at an event hosted by the European Policy Centre (to be confirmed).

7 Over two days in Stockholm (6-7 April), I will:

- meet with my Swedish Counterpart, Tobias Billström; and
- engage with Sámi representatives, which may include the Head of the Sámi Parliament, and a roundtable with the Stockholm Sámi Association to strengthen indigenous connections.

Travel

8 If my travel is approved, I will arrive in Belgium on Monday 3 April, departing Auckland via Dubai. I will depart Sweden on Friday 7 April, returning to Auckland via Paris and Dubai on Sunday 9 April. The substantive elements of my visit will take place between Tuesday 4 and Friday 7 April.

Ministerial Party

9 I propose to be accompanied by one staff member paid for by ministerial resources. I will also be accompanied by three officials whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Estimated Costs

10 The estimated cost for this travel is:

	Minister	Staff
Flights	NZD 17,888	NZD 17,888
Accommodation - Minister	NZD 2,656	NZD 1,945
Gifts	NZD 750	N/A
Transportation / Airport facilitation	NZD 216	
Hospitality	NZD 2,000	
Office/room (NATO)	NZD 2,000	
Per diems	NZD 800	NZD 800
Subtotal	NZD 26,310	NZD 20,633
Contingency 15%	NZD 3,947	NZD 3,095
Totals	NZD 30,257	NZD 23,727
Total estimated cost	NZD \$53,984	

Acting Ministers

- 11 Leave is being sought from the House.
- 12 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon David Parker act as Minister for my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament and Arms Control portfolios.
- 13 My responsibilities as Associate Minister of Māori Development will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Willie Jackson.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 2 – 9 April to travel to Belgium and Sweden.
- 2 Agree that I will be accompanied by one member of my staff paid for by ministerial services.
- 3 Note that I will be accompanied by three officials whose costs will be met the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- 4 Approve the expenditure of \$53,984 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 5 Agree that Hon David Parker will be Acting Minister in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere