

Aide memoire: Cabinet update - response to Israel/Gaza conflict

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Out of scope

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- Out of scope

Consular:

- There are 261 New Zealanders still registered as being in Israel, but the number that are seeking consular assistance is much lower. MFAT is focusing on a smaller group of 57 who they have been unable to contact to confirm their travel intentions or who have indicated they want to leave.
- Out of scope
- As at 5pm Sunday 15 October, we have assisted 37 New Zealanders to leave Tel Aviv on Etihad Airways flights to the UAE. A third and final flight is scheduled for early Monday morning (NZT) and is expected to carry a number of New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals.
- As a contingency to assist with the consular response, I and the Minister of Defence (with the PM's concurrence) approved on Saturday the deployment of a RNZAF Boeing 757 aircraft to the region. A decision on whether there is a need for this deployment to go ahead will be made jointly by MFAT's CE and CDF, most likely in the next 48 hours.

Out of scope

**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Gaza: significant update on 5E assisted departure planning  
**Date:** Wednesday, 11 October 2023 3:42:00 pm  
**Importance:** High

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As we indicated might be possible in this morning's SITREP, the stop banks have broken and we are seeing a number of 5E moves to arrange flights out of Israel. Updates below.

s6(b)(i)

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**Our next steps are:**

- Updating our media points.
- s6(a)

s6(a)

- s6(a)

- s6(a)

- s6(a) tasking ANK/CAI tonight to make contact with registrants to fill some information gaps we have regarding travel plans (particularly of those who want to depart, how many have confirmed flights out).

And to note that separately, we will be sending a SafeTravel message today updating registrants on commercial departure options that continue to be available. We are seeing more commercial options returning to the route.

Will attend the 4:30pm stand-up and we can talk through. But wanted to update everyone now.

s9(2)(g)(ii).

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Urgent note for PM/MFA - assisted departure for NZers in Israel  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 October 2023 11:07:00 am

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Great news, thanks s9(2)(g)(ii) for the fast turnaround.

And good to chat just now. Comms is very much front of mind for us too. The team will have a dedicated work stream on this and aim to provide advice towards the end of the day.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 October 2023 10:55 am  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Urgent note for PM/MFA - assisted departure for NZers in Israel

Kia ora s9(2)(g)(ii)

We have just had the following update from MFA (and PM) regarding the note:

*I agree with recommendation for assisted departure of NZCs from Israel via Etihad airlines and that the cost recovery option (in part or whole) be factored into planning. PM Concurs.*

s9(2)(g)(ii) (press sec) has asked how the Ministry will publicise this and to ensure this is coordinated between a press statement/PR and SafeTravel concurrently. Grateful for advice asap.

Cheers,

s9(2)(g)(i)



**s9(2)(g)(ii)**

Foreign Affairs | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP  
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Disarmament | Associate Minister for Māori Development

Waea pūkoro: s9(2)(g)(ii)  
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Out of scope

**From:** contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz <contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 October 2023 6:29 pm

**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Israel: Information on flight departure options

[Contact](#) | [Login](#)

Official registration for New Zealanders  
living and travelling overseas

This is a message from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and follows previous advice regarding the outbreak of armed conflict on 7 October. This message has been sent to you as your registration details indicate you are currently in, or plan on travelling to, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Please update your [registration details](#) if this is not the case.

This update is for New Zealanders who wish to leave Israel, but have not yet been able to make travel bookings.

While we continue to look at options to help New Zealanders depart Israel, our advice continues to be to pursue commercially available options, including considering different routes if necessary. We understand for some, this may not be a safe option presently and you may choose to continue to stay in your current location.

We are aware of the following commercial flights that are currently available from Tel Aviv to regional Middle East locations (time; airline; flight number):

**12 October 2023 TLV to DXB**

0040 FlyDubai FL1808

1100 FlyDubai

1245 Emirates EK934

1950 Emirates EK932

2355 Emirates EK936

2355 FlyDubai

**13 October 2023 TLV to DXB**

0040 FlyDubai

1100 FlyDubai

1245 Emirates EK934

1325 FlyDubai

1655 Emirates EK932

2355 FlyDubai

**13 October 2023 TLV to AUH**

1455 Etihad EY594

**14 October 2023 TLV to DXB**

0040 FlyDubai

1100 FlyDubai

1325 FlyDubai

2355 FlyDubai

**14 October 2023 TLV to AUH**

1455 Etihad EY594

**15 October 2023 TLV to DXB**

0100 FlyDubai

1100 FlyDubai

1325 FlyDubai

1950 Emirates EK932

2355 Emirates EK934

2355 FlyDubai

**15 October 2023 TLV to AUH**

1455 Etihad EY594

**16 October 2023 TLV to DXB**

0040 FlyDubai

1100 FlyDubai

1245 Emirates EK934

1325 FlyDubai

2355 FlyDubai

**16 October 2023 TLV to AUH**

1455 Etihad EY594

**As of 10/10/23 the following airlines were still flying from TLV:**

Qantas and Thai Airways to Bangkok

Arkia to Athens / Paris

El Al to New York / London (Luton) / Rome

Polish Air to Khania

Aerolineas Argentinas, Aero Me and JetBlue to New York

Dan Air to Bucharest

Please note that these are given as indications only. If you are flying to a third country you will need to arrange the appropriate documentation such as entry requirements and visas. You should check with your travel agent or with the [Embassy or High Commissions](#) of the countries you intend to visit or transit to find out their visa / entry requirements and if you need to apply for a visa.

You should enquire with the airline directly to secure flights, and arrange onward travel to New Zealand or your final destination.

We are providing general advice on our news feature on the SafeTravel website: [Israel: ongoing armed conflict | SafeTravel](#)

We provide general advice on contingency planning for New Zealanders overseas to consider [here](#).

### Consular Assistance

We encourage all New Zealanders visiting or living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories to register their details on SafeTravel.

If you require consular assistance please contact the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

The New Zealand Embassy in Ankara, Turkey covers Israel and can be contacted at +90 312 446 3333 or at [newzealandembassyankara@gmail.com](mailto:newzealandembassyankara@gmail.com).

The New Zealand Embassy in Cairo, Egypt covers the Occupied Palestinian Territories and can be contacted at +202 2461 9186 or at [enquiries@nzembassy.org.eg](mailto:enquiries@nzembassy.org.eg).

### New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>



Out of scope

**From:** contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz <contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 12 October 2023 6:56 pm  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Israel: Commercial flight partnership

[Contact](#) | [Login](#)

Official registration for New Zealanders  
living and travelling overseas

This is a message from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and follows previous advice regarding the outbreak of armed conflict on 7 October. This message has been sent to you as your registration details indicate you are currently in Israel. Please update your [registration details](#) if this is not the case.

This update is for New Zealanders who wish to leave Israel, but have not yet been able to secure a travel booking.

While multiple airlines have suspended flights to Tel Aviv, Ben Gurion Airport remains open and commercial flights continue to operate. New Zealanders should not change their existing flight arrangements if these are unaffected.

We have secured a limited number of seats on a regularly scheduled Etihad Airways flight from Tel Aviv to Abu Dhabi on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. There will be a charge associated with this flight and you will need to sign an undertaking to repay before boarding the flight.

Seats on this flight will be available on a first in, first served basis to New Zealand passport holders, New Zealand permanent residents and Pacific Island passport holders.

You must meet UAE entry requirements to be eligible to take this flight.

Please note that final decisions regarding the operation of this flight rest with the airline.

You will be responsible for all travel costs incurred in Abu Dhabi as well as onward travel arrangements and associated costs. We encourage you to reach out to your travel insurer, if you haven't already done so.

You will be responsible for making your own on wards travel arrangements from Abu Dhabi. Please note that there may be limited availability of on wards flights to return to New Zealand and you may need to consider arranging forward travel through nearby travel hubs such as Dubai, Doha, Singapore or Istanbul. Your travel agent will be best placed to provide advice on options.

Further details including costs, and instructions on how to register for this flight will be sent in a subsequent SafeTravel message. We expect to circulate this information within the next 24 hours. Travellers will not be able to register until you receive these instructions.

If you are unable to secure a seat on this flight, please be assured that we continue to look at options

to help New Zealanders depart Israel where this is possible and can be done safely.

### **New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>



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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 12 October 2023 10:01 AM

**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**cc:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Urgent note for PM/MFA - assisted departure for NZers in Israel

**Importance:** High

[SEEMAIL] [IN CONFIDENCE]

Morning <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> and <sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

As discussed with both of you just now, please find attached an urgent note for consideration by the PM and MFA on an assisted departure option for New Zealanders in Israel.

Please note we need to respond to Etihad by 11:45am or we will lose these seats. Huge apologies for the timeframe, can you please respond by 11:30am at the latest.

Many thanks,

<sup>s9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Te Ohu Atawhai | Consular Division

Manatū Aorere | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade

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195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18901, Wellington 5045, New Zealand

[www.mfat.govt.nz](http://www.mfat.govt.nz) | [www.safetravel.govt.nz](http://www.safetravel.govt.nz)

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**From:** s9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Etihad have confirmed they will operate a second flight for us (a further 90 seats) on Sunday 15 October - EOM  
**Date:** Thursday, 12 October 2023 9:35:00 pm  
**Importance:** High

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## Advice on Assisted Departure options for New Zealanders in Israel

The Ministry has been actively exploring options to assist New Zealanders to depart Israel following Hamas' attack on 7 October and subsequent fighting.

We have been working on two options. These are outlined below. s6(a)

### Option 1: Charter a commercial plane

- We have approached s9(2)(b)(ii) and Etihad.
- s9(2)(b)(ii)
- Etihad, however, has said they are prepared to deploy a larger aircraft on the Tel Aviv-Abu Dhabi route on Saturday 14 October, and offer the additional 90 seats to the New Zealand Government. s9(2)(b)(ii)  
s6(b)(i)
- While commercial options to depart Israel exist, these are being impacted by the high degree of volatility due to the conflict. s9(2)(b)(ii)

**Given this high degree of uncertainty in departure options for New Zealanders, we strongly recommend accepting Etihad's offer.**

- This is a significant recommendation and one that the Ministry does not take lightly. Our preferred approach in these situations is always to rely on New Zealanders making their own arrangements while that remains an option. But the mix of considerable uncertainty in this case, the need to provide urgent assistance to New Zealanders that could be exposed to heightened conflict in the region, s6(a)

underline why we are strongly recommending that we move ahead now with Etihad. Confirming this option will also provide New Zealanders in Israel greater certainty to arrange their onward travel.

- While it is difficult to assess the numbers of New Zealanders that will choose to avail themselves of this option, the ninety available seats would provide an option

for around 55% of non-resident New Zealanders currently registered as being in Israel.

- There are a number of challenges that we will need to overcome to make this option work:
  - One is timeframes. Etihad has advised that we must advise them by Thursday morning NZT if we wish to take up this option. Otherwise they will release the seats to the market, which they expect will be sold very quickly. **For this reason, unless you or the Prime Minister directs us otherwise by 11:30am, we will confirm to Etihad that the Ministry will take up the option to purchase these seats (funded from our baseline).**
  - A second question is whether or not New Zealanders should be charged, in some way, for travelling on this flight. This is a complex issue and a decision will be needed today. We will provide you with further advice this afternoon. Either way, any costs not passed on to New Zealanders availing themselves of this flight will be met from the Ministry's baseline.
  - A third issue will be the logistical challenges in managing flight arrangements and liaising with New Zealanders in Israel. A dedicated team is being established this morning to focus on this, which will include consideration of what on-the-ground presence at Ben Gurion Airport may be required by New Zealand consular officials.
  - A fourth issue we need to be mindful of is the possibility that Etihad suspends services to Tel Aviv before Saturday's scheduled flight.

- s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a)

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**Annex: Current state of 5N partner plans**

s6(a),  
s6(b)(i)

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## Informal Note — Israel Assisted Departures Team

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### Consular Update

- As at 13 October, there are:
  - 272 New Zealanders registered as being in Israel.

Out of scope

### MFAT Response

- Reflecting the escalating situation, MFAT has today formally stood up an Emergency Coordination Centre to support the response. This includes an assisted departures team, liaison teams supporting NZ Inc staff deployed to the region, as well as a 24/7 Call Centre (staffed from Wellington and Europe and the Middle East). Please refer [Annex A](#) for structure overview diagram.
- NZ Inc staff are being deployed to the region to assist with the departure process:
  - Tel Aviv, Israel: 2x MFAT staff members (ex-ANK and ex-LON) and 1x NZDF to assist with departures out of Ben Gurion Airport. Staff members are currently in-transit.
  - Abu Dhabi, UAE: 3x Immigration officials already in the UAE will stay on to provide support to the Embassy's consular team.
- MFAT has issued regular updates via SafeTravel, which provides current advice on the security situation and instructions for those wanting to depart on the New Zealand/Etihad flights (more below). The latest SafeTravel advice is included in Annex B.

### Israel Departures

#### Status of Ben Gurion Airport

- The security situation is volatile. Israel's Ben Gurion airport remains open for the time being however there is significant and growing risk of flight disruptions, delays and cancellations in coming days.
- s6(a)
 

Our public and SafeTravel messaging has underlined the deteriorating security situation and reinforced the urgency for all New Zealanders to depart the region as soon as possible. (Latest SafeTravel message is enclosed at [Annex B](#)).

### Etihad Airways Flights

- MFAT is supporting New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals to depart Israel on three scheduled flights (though public announcements have only referenced two flights, departing Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 October, as these are for the large group bookings – 90 places each).

	Flight Details	Breakdown of Registered Interest (as at 1600, 13 October)
<b>Flight 1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>Friday 13 October</li> <li>Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> <li>Ad hoc bookings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>New Zealanders</u>: 8</li> <li><u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> </ul>
<b>Flight 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>Saturday 14 October</li> <li>Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> <li>90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>New Zealanders</u>: 23</li> <li><u>Israel-NZ dual national</u>: 1</li> <li><u>PIC nationals</u>: 14 (all of whom are Fijian nationals)</li> </ul>
<b>Flight 3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>Sunday 15 October 2023</li> <li>Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> <li>90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>New Zealanders</u>: 2</li> <li><u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> </ul>

- Our Call Centre will work through the night to contact, again, registered New Zealanders to facilitate bookings on these flights. We expect bookings to rise significantly during the Israeli Friday.
- s6(a)
- s6(a), s9(2)(a)

### Funding

- In order to secure the group bookings on these flights, the Government has paid the full price of the flight upfront, with a partial cost recovery sought from New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals s9(2)(i) – NZD\$330). s9(2)(i)
- Cabinet is being asked to note these flight arrangements at the Cabinet meeting on Monday 16 October, including our cost recovery approach.
- For awareness, MFAT's appropriation for Consular Loans has to be increased to avoid unappropriated expenditure. The current appropriation is \$100,000. MFAT has agreed a solution with Treasury, but it has to be implemented today, before the Ministry incurs the expenses in the weekend. MFAT has therefore sent a submission today seeking Joint Ministers' (MFA and MoF) approval for a fiscally neutral transfer of funding i.e. increase

Consular Loans appropriation by \$400,000 and make a capital withdrawal of the same amount to fund it.

Other Flight Options

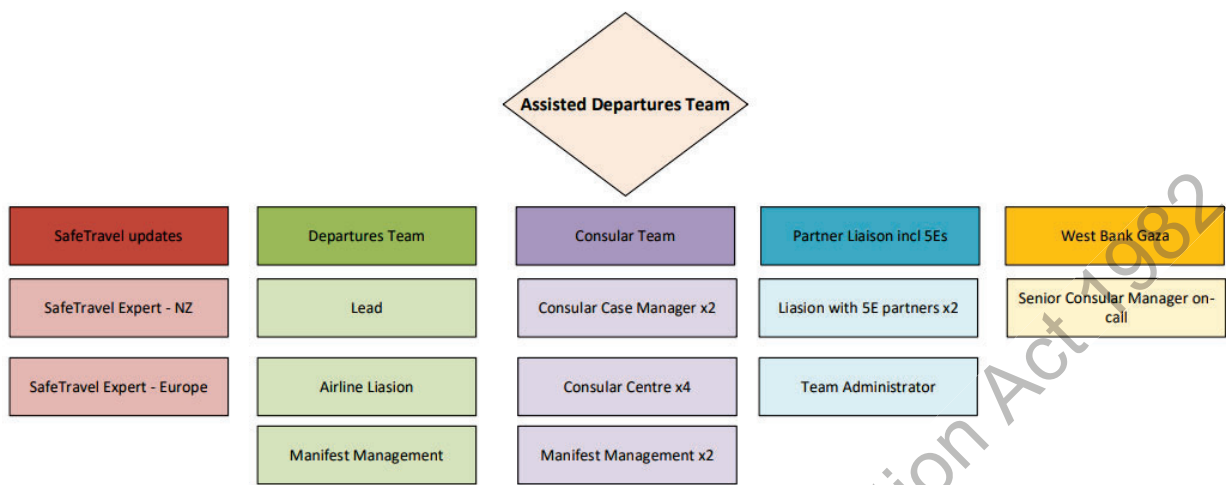
- MFAT has been in contact with NZDF today to discuss contingency options should the travel/departure situations for New Zealanders deteriorate significantly.
- s6(a)
- s6(b)(i)
- s6(b)(i)

Out of scope

Israel Assisted Departures Team  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
13 October 2023

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Annex A: Israel Assisted Departures Team - Structure**



**Annex B: SafeTravel Message to New Zealanders (sent 12 October)**

[Contact](#) | [Login](#)  
**Official registration for New Zealanders  
living and travelling overseas**

The New Zealand Government is partnering with Etihad Airways to facilitate the departure of New Zealanders and other eligible passengers from Pacific countries out of Tel Aviv, following the outbreak of armed conflict in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

We have secured a limited number of seats for the following flight:

Etihad Airways EY594

Saturday 14 October 2023

Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55

Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10

Cost: NZ\$330

The following individuals are eligible for this flight:



New Zealand citizens; New Zealand Permanent Residents; Immediate family members traveling with New Zealand citizens; or Pacific Islands nationals.

You must also be eligible to enter the UAE (have a valid UAE entry visa or have the right to transit through the UAE to catch a confirmed onward flight).

You should check with your travel agent or with the [Embassy or High Commissions](#) of the countries you intend to visit or transit to find out their visa / entry requirements and if you need to apply for a visa. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade can not provide this information.

If you do not have the required visa, you will not be able to travel on the above flight.

Seats on this flight will be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The process for securing a seat on this flight is as follows:

You must send an email to: [INflight@etihad.ae](mailto:INflight@etihad.ae) and [Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz)

The email must have the following in the email subject line: "New Zealand Government Assistance flight to Abu Dhabi".

Interested passengers must then include the following in the email:

1) If they are a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page;

OR

2) If they are not a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page, and a photo of their New Zealand Permanent Residency visa and their visa for the United Arab Emirates; OR

A copy of their onward ticket to their final destination to ensure they have the right to transit the United Arab Emirates.

For non-New Zealand citizens we will be checking that they are permanent residents of New Zealand, Pacific Island nationals or family members who are eligible to be on the flight.

Etihad Airways will respond to you directly advising whether you have been successful in securing a booking, or whether the allocation for this flight has been exhausted.

On arrival at Tel Aviv Airport, you will be required to complete an 'undertaking to repay' document before checking in for your flight. This commits you to repayment of the above flight cost (NZ\$330) within 90 days.

Other important notes:

Final decisions regarding the operation of this flight rest with the airline.

Those undertaking onwards travel need to allow time to clear immigration (where needed) and to allow time to collect luggage.

You will be responsible for your costs in Abu Dhabi and making onward travel arrangements at your own expense. Please note that there may be limited availability of onwards flights to return to New Zealand and you may need to consider arranging forward travel through nearby travel hubs such as Dubai, Doha, Singapore or Istanbul. Your travel agent will be best placed to provide advice on options. We also encourage you to reach out to your travel insurer, if you haven't already done so.

We have only been able to secure a limited number of seats on this flight, so it is important that those wishing to leave, who already have commercial bookings, do not forgo those tickets for these flights because there is no guarantee a seat can be assigned.

We are actively working with Etihad Airways to identify further opportunities. We will update New Zealanders in Israel as soon as we more information we can share.

### **New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>

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13 October 2023

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Minister of Finance

For approval by 13 October 2023  
For approval by 13 October 2023

## Fiscally Neutral Adjustment

BRIEFING	Decision Submission
PURPOSE	Evacuation support for New Zealanders to leave Israel as a result of the Israel/Gaza conflict requires reprioritisation of funding within Vote Foreign Affairs to avoid incurring unappropriated expenditure. Your approval is sought for a fiscally neutral adjustment for Vote Foreign Affairs.

## Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

## Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
s9(2)(g)(ii)	Acting Chief Financial Officer	Finance	s9(2)(g)(ii)

## Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

**Comments**

## Fiscally Neutral Adjustment

### Pito matua – Key points

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- The Ministry's response to the Israel/Gaza conflict includes the supporting of New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals to depart Israel this weekend on two scheduled flights.
- The New Zealanders will sign an under-taking to repay and it will be treated as a consular loan. The Pacific Island nationals share will be paid by their governments.
- The Ministry estimates the cost of the loans required to fund the repatriation will be approximately \$400,000.
- The appropriation from which this expenditure is met from is currently \$100,000 and needs to be increased to avoid unappropriated expenditure.
- Joint-ministers are asked to approve a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$400,000 to increase the appropriation to \$500,000 to include other expenditure incurred year to date.
- Treasury has been consulted and supports this recommendation in order to avoid the Ministry incurring unappropriated expenditure.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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## Fiscally Neutral Adjustment

## Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that both the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Finance:

1 **Note** the Ministry is providing consular assistance to New Zealanders as a result of the Israel/Gaza conflict. ☒ Yes / No

2 **Note** the Ministry will incur unappropriated expenditure unless the appropriation Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure – Consular Loans is increased. ☒ Yes / No

3 **Agree** to a fiscally neutral adjustment of \$0.400 million in 2023/24 to provide for repatriation flights out of Israel and/or the Palestinian Territories. ☒ Yes / No

4 **Approve** the following fiscally neutral adjustment to give effect to the policy decision in recommendation 3 above, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net debt: ☒ Yes / No

Vote Foreign Affairs	\$m – increase/(decrease)			
	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 & outyears
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:				
Capital Withdrawal	(0.400)	-	-	-
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure:				
Consular Loans	0.400	-	-	-

5 **Agree** that the proposed changes to appropriations for 2023/24 above be included in the 2023/24 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply. ☒ Yes / No



Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Date: 13 / 10 / 2023



Hon Grant Robertson  
Minister of Finance

Date: 13 / 10 / 23

## Informal Note — Israel Assisted Departures Team (Version: Sat 14 Oct)

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### Consular Update

- As at 14 October (19.00), there are:
  - 251 New Zealanders registered as being in Israel.
  - Out of scope
- Out of scope

### MFAT Response

- MFAT's Emergency Coordination Centre continues to support the response. This includes an assisted departures team, liaison teams supporting NZ Inc staff deployed to the region, as well as a 24/7 Call Centre (staffed from Wellington and Europe and the Middle East). Please refer Annex A for structure overview diagram.
- NZ Inc staff are deployed to the region to assist with the departure process:
  - Tel Aviv, Israel: Departing passengers are being assisted at Ben Gurion Airport by a team of three New Zealand personnel (x2 MFAT (ex-ANK and ex-LON) and x1 NZDF).
  - Abu Dhabi, UAE: Immigration officials are already in the UAE, and are remaining on to provide support to the Embassy's consular team. Arriving passengers are being met at Abu Dhabi International Airport by a team of three New Zealand personnel (x2 MFAT and x1 MBIE personnel).
- MFAT is issuing regular updates via SafeTravel, which provides current advice on the security situation and instructions for those wanting to depart on the New Zealand/Etihad flights (more below). The latest SafeTravel advice is included in Annex B.

### Israel Departures

#### Status of Ben Gurion Airport

- The security situation is volatile. Israel's Ben Gurion airport remains open for the time being however there is significant and growing risk of flight disruptions, delays and cancellations in coming days.
- s6(a)
 

Our public and SafeTravel messaging has underlined the deteriorating security situation and reinforced the urgency for all New Zealanders to depart the region as soon as possible.



Etihad Airways Flights

- MFAT continues to support New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals to depart Israel on scheduled flights out of Tel Aviv.
- The first of three New Zealand Government assisted Etihad flights departed Tel Aviv on Friday 13 October, arriving into Abu Dhabi overnight (carrying ten travellers in the New Zealand group booking). Details provided below.
- s6(a), s6(b)(i)
- **Etihad Flight 2 (EY594) departed Sunday 15 October, 00.55 NZT. In total, 28 travellers boarded the flight (27 New Zealanders, and 1 Australian).**

Status	Flight Details	Registered interest in flight	Travellers confirmed as boarding flight
Arrived in UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Fri 13 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ad hoc bookings</li> </ul>	//	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 10</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> <li>• Other nationals on board: All NZers, with two dual citizens (Austrian and Israeli)</li> </ul>
Departed Tel Aviv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Sat 14 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	//	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 27</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> <li>• <u>Other nationals</u>: AUS: (1)</li> </ul>
Upcoming Departure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Sun 15 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 5 (incl. 2x MFAT and 1x NZDF)</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> <li>• <u>Other nationals</u>: 0</li> </ul>	

- Our Call Centre continues to work 24/7 to contact registered New Zealanders to facilitate bookings on these flights.

Funding for Etihad flights

In order to secure the group bookings on the New Zealand partnered Etihad flights, the Government has paid the full price of the flight upfront, with a partial cost recovery sought from New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals (s9(2)(i) – NZD\$330). s9(2)(i)

s6(b)(i)

- Cabinet is being asked to note these flight arrangements at the Cabinet meeting on Monday 16 October, including our cost recovery approach.

- MFAT's appropriation for Consular Loans (previously \$100,000) has recently been increased in order to avoid unappropriated expenditure. Joint Ministers (MFA and MoF) signed off on this advice on Friday 13 October. This enables a fiscally neutral transfer of funding (i.e. an increase to the Consular Loans appropriation by \$400,000 and a capital withdrawal of the same amount to fund it).

#### New Zealand Defence Force Deployment to the Middle East

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence have today approved the deployment of a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft, and up to 39 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the Middle East region, for a period of up to 30 days from 16 October. The deployment will provide strategic airlift capability to MFAT, in support of New Zealand's consular response to the Israel-Gaza conflict s6(a)

#### Other Flights

- MFAT officials continue to liaise with Australia, the UK, and Canada s6(a)  
s6(b)(i)

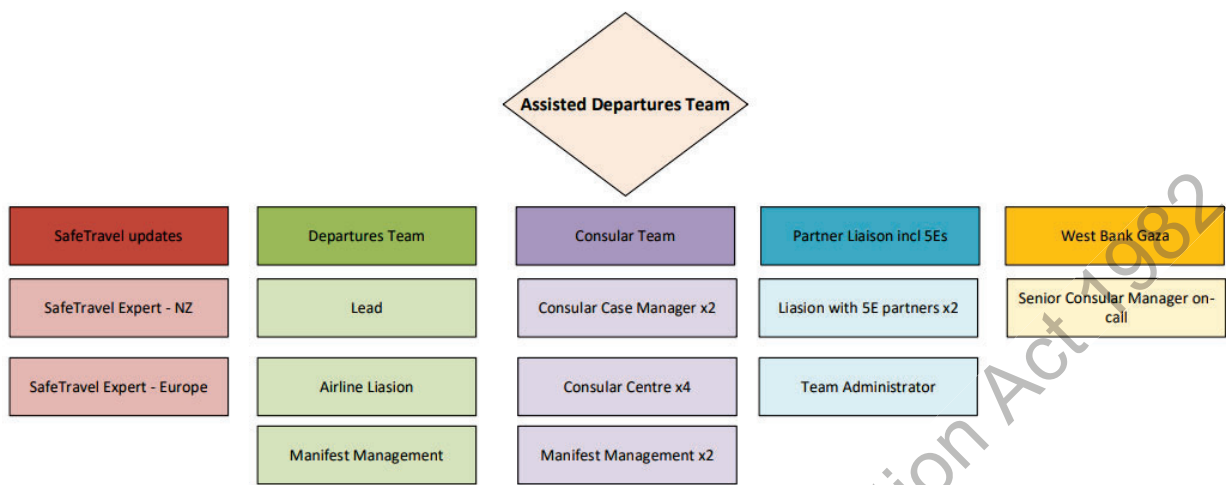
- s9(2)(a)

Out of scope

Israel Assisted Departures Team  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
14 October 2023

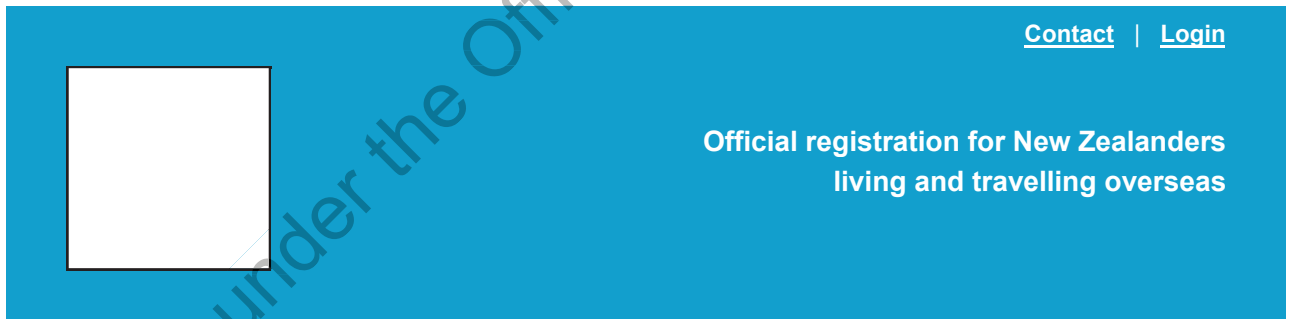


## Annex A: Israel Assisted Departures Team - Structure



## Annex B: SafeTravel Messages to New Zealanders

### SafeTravel Message sent 14 October



This message is a reminder of our SafeTravel update to you of yesterday which advised of the New Zealand Government Assisted Flight Options for the departure of New Zealanders and other eligible passengers from Israel. Given the security situation remains highly volatile, and this could impact flight schedules and operations at any time, we continue to recommend strongly that those who wish to leave Israel, should do so as soon as possible.

As of 7:00am Israel time, there are still a limited number of seats available for the Saturday 14 October flight (EY594 departing Tel Aviv 14:55; \$330 undertaking to repay) and the Sunday 15 October flight (EY594 departing Tel Aviv 14:55; with the same undertaking to repay the same cost).

If you wish to obtain a seat on one of these flights (either on 14 October or 15 October) you must do so immediately. We are unable to hold tickets. Seats on these flights are limited and are being allocated on a

first-come, first-serve basis. Flight schedules and operations are constantly changing. Do not wait for a Sunday flight if you can depart on Saturday.

For further information on eligibility and these flights please refer to the SafeTravel message which was sent yesterday (13 October 2023).

Israel: REMINDER – NZ Government Assisted Flight Options

### New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>

#### SafeTravel Message sent 13 October

[Contact](#) | [Login](#)

Official registration for New Zealanders  
living and travelling overseas

This message follows our SafeTravel update to you of yesterday which advised that the New Zealand Government is partnering with Etihad Airways to facilitate the departure of New Zealanders and other eligible passengers from Israel.

We can announce that the New Zealand Government has secured seats on an additional Etihad Airways flight that will **potentially** operate on Sunday 15 October. The details are:

Etihad Airways EY594

Sunday 15 October 2023

Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55

Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10

Cost: NZ\$330

There is currently still a limited number of seats available for the same flight that will operate on Saturday 14 October (EY594 departing 14:55; at the same cost). Given the security situation remains highly volatile, and this could impact flight schedules and operations are any time, we continue to recommend strongly that those who wish to leave Israel, do so now and prioritise booking the flight on Saturday 14th October.

If you wish to obtain a seat on one of these flights (either on 14 October or 15 October) **you must do so immediately. We are unable to hold tickets.** Flight schedules and operations are constantly changing. **Do not wait for a Sunday flight if you can depart on Saturday.**

The following individuals are eligible for these flights:

New Zealand citizens; New Zealand Permanent Residents; Immediate family members traveling with New Zealand citizens; or Pacific Islands nationals.

You must also be eligible to enter the UAE (have a valid UAE entry visa or have the right to transit through the UAE to catch a confirmed onward flight).

You should check with your travel agent or with the [Embassy or High Commissions](#) of the countries you intend to visit or transit to find out their visa / entry requirements and if you need to apply for a visa. The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade cannot provide this information.

If you do not have the required visa, you will not be able to travel on these flights.

Seats on these flights are being allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis. The process for securing a seat on these flights is as follows:

You must send an email to: [INflight@etihad.ae](mailto:INflight@etihad.ae) and [Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz)

The email must have the following in the email subject line: "New Zealand Government Assistance flight to Abu Dhabi".

Interested passengers must then include the following in the email:

1) If they are a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page;

OR

2) If they are not a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page, and a photo of their New Zealand Permanent Residency visa and their visa for the UAE; OR

A copy of their onward ticket to their final destination to ensure they have the right to transit the UAE.

Etihad Airways will respond to you directly advising whether you have been successful in securing a booking, or whether the allocation for your selected flight has been exhausted.

On arrival at Tel Aviv Airport, you will be required to complete an 'undertaking to repay' document before checking in for your flight. This commits you to repayment of the above flight cost (NZ\$330) within 90 days.

**Other important notes:**

Final decisions regarding the operation of these flights rest with the airline.

Those undertaking onwads travel need to allow time to clear immigration (where needed) and to allow time to collect luggage.

You will be responsible for your costs in Abu Dhabi and making onward travel arrangements at your own expense. Please note that there may be limited availability of onwads flights to return to New Zealand and you may need to consider arranging forward travel through nearby travel hubs such as Dubai, Doha, Singapore or Istanbul. Your travel agent will be best placed to provide advice on options. We also encourage you to reach out to your travel insurer, if you haven't already done so.

**New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>

//



**MANATŪ KAUPAPA  
WAONGA**  
NEW ZEALAND  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE



14 October 2023

Minister of Defence

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## **NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE FORCE DEPLOYMENT TO SUPPORT THE ASSISTED DEPARTURE OF NEW ZEALANDERS FROM ISRAEL AND MIDDLE EAST**

### **Purpose**

To seek approval to deploy a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft and up to 39 New Zealand Defence Force Personnel to the Middle East region for up to 30 days, to assist the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade with consular efforts to facilitate the departure of New Zealanders and approved individuals from Israel or other locations in the Middle East region.

### **Background**

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) has stood up an Emergency Crisis Centre to manage the consular response to the Israel/Gaza conflict.
2. As part of this work, MFAT is working with Etihad Airways to facilitate the departure of New Zealanders who want to leave Israel. One flight departed from Tel Aviv earlier today (Saturday) with ten New Zealanders on-board. A further 46 travellers are booked on Etihad's Saturday service and will arrive in Abu Dhabi at 4am on Sunday (NZT). Demand for a third flight on Sunday has so far been low but could surge if commercial departure options from Israel continue to decline or stop altogether. MFAT's advice to New Zealanders who want to leave Israel, is to do so now.
3. These departure flights terminate at Abu Dhabi. MFAT has been clear to travellers that they are responsible for making onward travel arrangements. s6(a)
4. MFAT has requested support from the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), through the deployment of a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft, to provide strategic airlift to support the consular response. NZDF is able to provide support to other government

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agencies, and in support of mandated government activities such as consular efforts, subject to the approval of relevant Ministers [CAB-21-MIN-0439].

5. The situation in Israel remains fast evolving. It is hard to predict with certainty what task the Boeing 757-2K2 could most usefully undertake, or even if it will be required. However as it will take 2-3 days for the aircraft to reach the region, officials think it is prudent to seek Ministerial permission now with the best information to hand, and provide updates if and as the situation evolves.

### ***Rationale for deployment***

6. NZDF support is requested for the following reasons:

- a) To provide contingency options against the possibility that a significant number of New Zealanders become stranded in Abu Dhabi due to the unavailability of onward flights. Currently, the risk of this is assessed as medium. While capacity exists on Emirates, Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines' routes, it is limited. Availability could also decline quickly as departures from Israel grow.
- b) To provide a potential contingency to evacuate New Zealanders from Tel Aviv whom are not able to depart Tel Aviv, s6(a)

c) s6(a)

### ***Proposed deployment***

7. It is proposed that Ministers approve the deployment of: a Boeing 757-2K2 and up to 39 NZDF personnel to the Middle East/Europe region for up to 30 days from the planned date of departure (currently 16 October) of the Boeing 757-2K2.

8. The NZDF Boeing 757-2K2 is currently scheduled to depart New Zealand not before 06:00 on Monday 16 October from Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Whenuapai, Auckland and arrive in the Middle East region on 18 October.

9. s6(a)

10. s6(a)  
)

11. The aircraft would be available to undertake airlift activities in support of the consular response between locations in the Middle East region, including Abu Dhabi

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(UAE) and, if needed s6(a)  
(Israel).

, Tel Aviv

12. The NZDF contingent will comprise the following types of specialists:

- Aircrew,
- Operations personnel,
- Maintenance personnel, and
- Logistics personnel.

13. It is proposed that the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs be advised of any increase beyond the initial 39 personnel. Approval from the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Foreign Affairs would also be sought if the deployment is likely to exceed 30 days in duration, s6(a)

14. To support the operation and provide consular support to New Zealanders on the ground, a small MFAT team of up to four persons would be included as part of the deployment.

### **Risks and considerations**

15. s6(a)

16. While at present the security situation in Israel remains acceptable, it is possible that the conflict in Israel/Gaza may escalate. In this context, it is possible that that security situation in Tel Aviv would be prejudicial to the health and safety of deployed personnel. To mitigate this risk, NZDF will continue to assess the situation and will not deploy to any non-permissive location or if the risks to health and safety exceeds the approved risk level.

### **Threat level**

17. s6(a)

18. However, the situation on the ground is still developing and remains uncertain. The overall security environment could deteriorate rapidly with little warning.

### **Financial implications**

19. The estimated cost of the proposed deployment of the Boeing 757-2K2 is \$0.850M - \$1.02M. The cost can be funded from NZDF baselines.

## **Legal Considerations**

### *Legal Basis*

20. The deployment will at all times only enter the airspace and territory of other countries with the consent of those countries, and will at all times comply with international law. In particular, any flights into Israeli air space will only occur with prior permission of the Israeli government.

### *Rules of Engagement*

21. The facilitated departure of New Zealand nationals is a defensive operation in nature and the application of force is limited to self-defence of the force, New Zealand nationals, and any other group of people for which there is a duty to protect. There is also a requirement to be able to conduct those activities which are necessary and incidental to the performance of the departure.

22. The NZDF contingent will be not be armed, and will operate under the New Zealand Standard Self Defence Rules of Engagement (NZSSDROE). This is an expression of section 48 of the Crimes Act 1961 in the form of orders. If there is a requirement for additional authorisation on the use of force, a separate request will be made through the Minister of Defence to the Prime Minister for consideration.

### *Law of Armed Conflict*

23. As this is an assisted departure of New Zealanders and other eligible persons only, the deployment will in no way be involved in the long-standing broader Israel-Palestine conflict, including current hostilities between Israel and Hamas. Any actions taken by NZDF would only be in self defence in order to protect nationals and would not amount to participation in the armed conflict.

### *Civilian Casualties*

24. As this is an unarmed assisted departure of New Zealanders, no civilian casualties are expected. The situation on the ground in Israel is dynamic. Where lawful military action results in civilian harm, the reporting requirements in Defence Force Order 35 are to be followed as soon as reasonably practicable. Due to the nature of the activity this may be on return to New Zealand.

## **Human Rights Risk Assessment**

25. A human rights risk assessment (HRRA) would not typically be required for a facilitated departure of this nature, and officials have not conducted one. Should the situation change, officials would conduct a HRRA to ensure any risk of Detainee Handling.

26. Although detainee handling is considered to be a remote possibility as a consequence of this deployment, officials will consider the risks associated. If risk and likelihood are assessed to be significant, officials would advise Ministers on approach.

## **Consultation**

27. This paper has been jointly prepared by the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

## **Recommendations**

28. It is recommended that you:



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- a) **Note** that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has requested the support of the New Zealand Defence Force, as part of its efforts to assist the departure of New Zealanders and other approved individuals from Israel, due to the proximity of the Israel/Gaza conflict.

**Noted**

- b) **Note** that the New Zealand Defence Force is preparing to deploy a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft, with a crew of up to 39, for a period of up to 30 days, from 16 October.

**Noted**

- c) **Note** that the purpose of the deployment is to provide strategic airlift capability to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in support of New Zealand's consular response to the Israel-Gaza conflict.

**Noted**

- d) s6(a)

**Noted**

- e) **Note** that the situation is fast evolving and that Ministers will be updated on any significant changes from parameters outlined in this paper;

**Noted**

- f) **Note** that the Boeing 757-2K2 may, if required s6(a) undertake flights to to and from Tel Aviv to assist the departure of New Zealanders and other eligible individuals stranded in Israel.

**Noted**

- g) **Note** that the deployment is estimated to cost \$0.850M - \$1.02M, and can be funded from New Zealand Defence Force Baselines.

**Noted**

- h) s6(a)

**Noted**

- i) **Approve** the deployment of a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft, and up to 39 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the Middle East Region, for a period of up to 30 days.

**Yes / No**

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- j) **Note** that if the commercial efforts to support the departure are successful and NZDF support for the consular response are assessed as no longer required ahead of 0600 16 October, officials will inform Ministers.

**Noted**

- k) **Refer** this submission to the Prime Minister for concurrence.

**Yes / No**

- l) **Note** that the Prime Minister may wish to inform the Leader of the Opposition of this proposed deployment.

**Noted**

s9(2)(g)(ii)



**ARN SHAW**

Brigadier  
For Chief of Defence Force  
Date: 14/11/23

**ANDREW BRIDGMAN**

Secretary of Defence  
Date: 14/10/23

s9(2)(g)(ii)

For Secretary of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade  
Date: 14/10/23



**HON ANDREW LITTLE**

Minister of Defence  
Date:

**HON NANAIA MAHUTA**

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Date: 14/10/2023

**RESTRICTED**

**Rt. Hon. Chris Hipkins**

Prime Minister

Date:

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

## Informal Note — Israel Assisted Departures Team (Version: Sun 15 Oct)

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### Consular Update

- As at Sunday 15 October (23.00), there are:
  - 261 New Zealanders registered as being in Israel.
  - Out of scope
- Out of scope

### MFAT Response

- MFAT's Emergency Coordination Centre continues to support the response. This includes an assisted departures team, liaison teams supporting NZ Inc staff deployed to the region, as well as a 24/7 Call Centre (staffed from Wellington and Europe and the Middle East). Please refer Annex A for structure overview diagram.
- Since the outbreak of armed conflict on 7 October, **the New Zealand Government has partnered with Etihad Airways to secure block bookings on three flights out of Tel Aviv (Friday 13, Saturday 14, and Sunday 15 October).**
- **This has resulted in the departure of 40 New Zealanders and 15 non-New Zealand nationals (14 from Fiji and 1 from Australia).**
- The majority of New Zealanders who have arrived into Abu Dhabi have arranged their own onwards travel and have departed the UAE. As such, there has (so far) been no stranded New Zealand travellers, though this could change in coming days. s9(2)(a)
- NZ Inc staff have been deployed to the region to assist with the departure process:
  - Tel Aviv, Israel: A team of three New Zealand personnel (x2 MFAT (ex-ANK and ex-LON) and x1 NZDF) have been deployed to Tel Aviv to assist passengers departing on commercial flights (including the three NZG/Etihad flights). s6(a)
  - NZDF will depart Thursday.
  - Abu Dhabi, UAE: Immigration officials are already in the UAE, and are remaining on to provide support to the Embassy's consular team. Arriving passengers have been met at Abu Dhabi International Airport by representatives from the New Zealand Embassy in the UAE (MFAT and MBIE) and provided support for travellers.

- MFAT continues to issue regular updates via SafeTravel, which provides current advice on the security situation and instructions for those wanting to depart on the New Zealand/Etihad flights (more below). The latest SafeTravel advice is included in Annex B.
- On Saturday 14 October, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence approved the deployment of a Boeing 757-2K2 aircraft, and up to 39 New Zealand Defence Force personnel to the Middle East region, for a period of up to 30 days from 16 October, but would be unlikely to depart until later in the week (a further update will be provided soon). The deployment will provide strategic airlift capability to MFAT, in support of New Zealand's consular response to the Israel-Gaza conflict s6(a)

The aircraft may undertake flights to and from Tel Aviv to assist the departure of New Zealanders and other eligible individuals stranded in Israel, if required s6(a)

## Israel Departures

### Status of Ben Gurion Airport

- The security situation is volatile. s6(a)
- Our public and SafeTravel messaging has underlined the deteriorating security situation and reinforced the urgency for all New Zealanders to depart the region as soon as possible.

### NZ Government partnered Etihad Airways Flights

- MFAT has supported New Zealanders and Pacific Island nationals to depart Israel on scheduled flights out of Tel Aviv. The MFAT Call Centre has worked 24/7 to contact registered New Zealanders to facilitate bookings on these (and other) flights.
  - The first Etihad Flight (EY594) departed Friday 13 October (local time) arriving into Abu Dhabi overnight (carrying 10 travellers in the New Zealand group booking).
  - The second Etihad Flight (EY594) departed Saturday 14 October (local time). In total, 28 travellers boarded the flight (27 New Zealanders, and 1 Australian).
  - The final Etihad Flight (EY594) departed Sunday 15 October (local time), with 17 NZ Government assisted passengers (3 New Zealanders and 14 Fijians).

Status	Flight Details	Registered interest in flight	Travellers confirmed as boarding flight
Arrived in UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Fri 13 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ad hoc bookings</li> </ul>	//	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 10</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> <li>• Other nationals on board: All NZers, with two dual citizens (Austrian and Israeli)</li> </ul>

Arrived in UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Sat 14 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	//	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 27</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 0</li> <li>• <u>Other nationals</u>: AUS: (1)</li> </ul>
Departed Tel Aviv	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etihad Airways EY594</li> <li>• <b>Sun 15 Oct</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dep Tel Aviv: 14:55</li> <li>• Arr Abu Dhabi: 19:10</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 90 available seats for NZ bookings</li> </ul>	//	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NZ</u>: 3</li> <li>• <u>PIC nationals</u>: 14 (Fiji)</li> <li>• <u>Other nationals</u>: one of the three NZ'ers is a dual citizen (NZ and Israeli)</li> </ul>

### Other Flights

- MFAT officials continue to liaise with Australia, the UK, and Canada s6(a)
- s6(a), s9(2)(a)

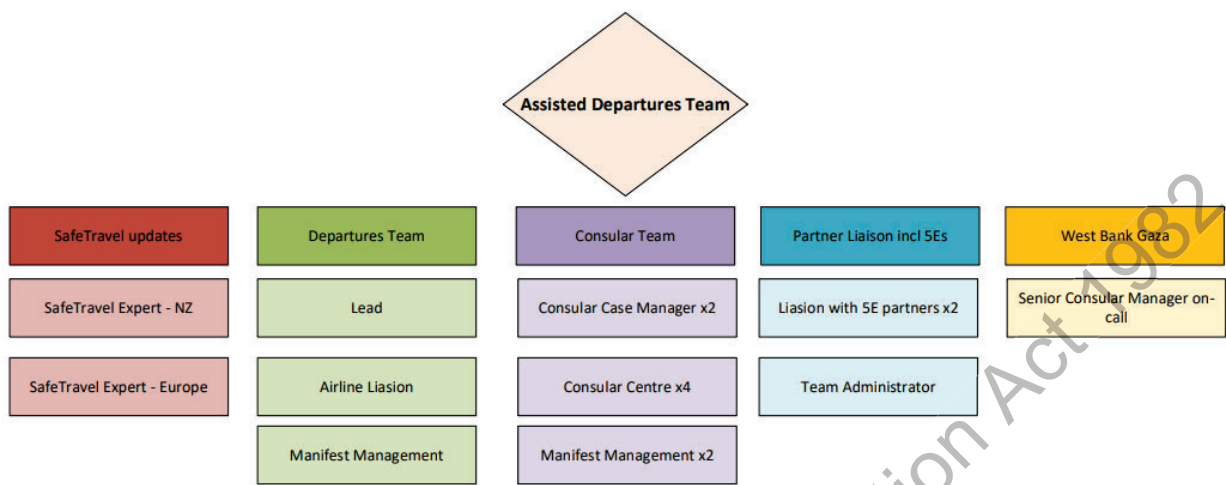
### Funding for Etihad flights

- In order to secure the group bookings on the New Zealand partnered Etihad flights, the Government has paid the full price of the flight upfront, with a partial cost recovery sought from New Zealanders and other eligible travellers (s9(2)(i) – NZD\$330). s9(2)(i)  
s6(b)(i)
- Cabinet is being asked to note these flight arrangements at the Cabinet meeting on Monday 16 October, including our cost recovery approach.
- MFAT's appropriation for Consular Loans (previously \$100,000) has recently been increased in order to avoid unappropriated expenditure. Joint Ministers (MFA and MoF) signed off on this advice on Friday 13 October. This enables a fiscally neutral transfer of funding (i.e. an increase to the Consular Loans appropriation by \$400,000 and a capital withdrawal of the same amount to fund it).

Out of scope

Israel Assisted Departures Team  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
16 October 2023

## Annex A: Israel Assisted Departures Team - Structure



## Annex B: SafeTravel Messages to New Zealanders

**From:** [contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz](mailto:contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz) <[contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz](mailto:contact@register.safetravel.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, 15 October 2023 5:35 pm  
**To:** CON CALL CENTRE <[DM-CONSCALLCENTRE@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-CONSCALLCENTRE@mfat.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Israel: Final Reminder on Government-Assisted Flight Option

[Contact](#) | [Login](#)

Official registration for New Zealanders  
living and travelling overseas

This is a message from the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and follows previous advice regarding the outbreak of armed conflict on 7 October. This message has been sent to you as your registration details indicate you are currently in Israel. Please update your [registration details](#) if this is not the case.

Please ensure that your SafeTravel registration includes important information such as **up-to-date** contact phone numbers, location and email addresses.

The **final** New Zealand Government assisted departure flight from Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport will depart today, Sunday 15 October, to Abu Dhabi. If you wish to leave Israel, **this is your final opportunity to depart on a New Zealand Government supported flight**. We have no further assisted departure flights planned.

There are still a limited number of seats available for today's flight but you need to book urgently to secure a seat. We cannot hold seats. Spaces are allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Booking Instructions:**

Etihad Airways EY594

Sunday 15 October 2023

Departing Tel Aviv: 14:55

Arriving Abu Dhabi: 19:10

Cost: NZ\$330

If you are booked on this flight you should arrive at the airport as early as possible and – at a minimum - **at least 3 hours before departure**.

The following individuals are eligible for these flights:

New Zealand citizens; New Zealand Permanent Residents; Immediate family members traveling with New Zealand citizens; or Pacific Islands nationals.

You must also be eligible to enter the UAE (have a valid UAE entry visa or have the right to transit through the UAE to catch a confirmed onward flight).

You should check with your travel agent or with the [Embassy or High Commissions](#) of the countries you intend to visit or transit to find out their visa / entry requirements and if you need to apply for a visa. If you require a visa for the UAE, you **must** have this issued for you to be eligible for these flights. If you do not have a visa and need one, you will not be issued with a ticket and will not be able to travel on these flights.

Seats on these flights are being allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The process for securing a seat on these flights is as follows:

You must send an email to: [INflight@etihad.ae](mailto:INflight@etihad.ae) and [Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:Consular.MiddleEastandAfrica@mfat.govt.nz)

The email must have the following in the email subject line: "New Zealand Government Assistance flight to Abu Dhabi".

Interested passengers must then include the following in the email:

1) If they are a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page;

OR



2) If they are not a New Zealand citizen, a photo of their passport bio-data page, and a photo of their New Zealand Permanent Residency visa and their visa for the UAE; OR

A copy of their onward ticket to their final destination to ensure they have the right to transit the UAE.

Etihad Airways will respond to you directly advising whether you have been successful in securing a booking, or whether the allocation for your selected flight has been exhausted.

On arrival at Tel Aviv Airport, you will be required to complete an 'undertaking to repay' document before checking in for your flight. This commits you to repayment of the above flight cost (NZ\$330) within 90 days.

**Other important notes:**

Final decisions regarding the operation of these flights rest with the airline.

Those undertaking on wards travel need to allow time to clear immigration (where needed) and to allow time to collect luggage.

You will be responsible for your costs in Abu Dhabi and making onward travel arrangements at your own expense. Please note that there may be limited availability of on wards flights to return to New Zealand and you may need to consider arranging forward travel through nearby travel hubs such as Dubai, Doha, Singapore or Istanbul. Your travel agent will be best placed to provide advice on options. We also encourage you to reach out to your travel insurer, if you haven't already done so.

If you require consular assistance please contact the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

**New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Address:** 195 Lambton Quay, Private Bag 18 901, Wellington 6160,

**New Zealand Ministry Telephone:** +64 4 439 8000

**24/7 Consular emergency call:** 0800 30 10 30 or +64 99 20 20 20

**Fax:** +64 4 439 8515

**Office Hours:** Mon-Fri 8.30am to 5pm, NZ time.

<https://register.safetravel.govt.nz>