

Proactive Release

Statutory Publication Date
21 May 2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – April 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0116
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: United States – 6 to 14 April 2024</i>	

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 code:

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



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: Rt Hon Winston Peters - April 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 8 April 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that on 25 March 2024, Cabinet authorised the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 30 March to 7 April 2024, to travel to United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland, Sweden and Belgium for bilateral discussions [CAB-24-MIN-0091];
- 2 **authorised** his continued absence from New Zealand, from 7 to 14 April 2024, to travel to the United States of America for bilateral discussions;
- 3 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 4 **approved** the additional estimated expenditure of up to \$49,548 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 5 **noted** that he is also being accompanied by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 7 to 12 April 2024;
 - 6.2 Hon Nicola Willis act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 13 to 14 April 2024;
 - 6.3 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing from 7 to 14 April 2024;
- 7 **noted** that the House is sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: United States - 6 to 14 April 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from Saturday 6 April to Friday 14 April for engagements with high-level United States Government and United Nations officials in the United States.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 If approved, my visit to the United States will provide an opportunity to engage with a key traditional security partner^{s6(a)}
- 4 I will undertake bilateral engagements with my Foreign Affairs counterpart, other relevant Senior Administration Officials, and Lawmakers, where I will demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to our shared values, interests and strategic direction, and seek US insights on the most pressing global issues.
- 5 During my visit to Washington DC, I intend to seek the following calls:
 - Secretary of State Anthony Blinken
 - Vice President Kamala Harris
 - National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan or Deputy National Security Adviser Jon Finer
 - USAID Administrator Samantha Power
 - Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell
 - Senator Ben Cardin and Senator Jim Risch, Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
 - Michael McCaul and Gregory Meeks, Chair and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee
 - s6(a)
- 6 During my visit to New York, I intend to seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:

- UN Secretary-General António Guterres
- President of the UN General Assembly Dennis Francis
- s6(a)
- President of the Asia Society and Former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, Dr Kyung-wha Kang
- Address the UN General Assembly on New Zealand's deep concerns about the situation in Gaza
- Attend an engagement with Five Eyes UN Ambassadors

Ministerial Party

- 7 I propose to be accompanied by my Specialist Ministerial Adviser. Travel costs of this official delegation will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 8 I will also be accompanied by two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

Travel Costs

9 The estimated cost for this travel is:

Airfares:	\$ 28 485
Ground transport (incl. trains)	\$ 4,020
Accommodation	\$ 9,184
Meals	\$ 3,500
Hospitality	\$ 2,000
Contingency (5%)	\$ 2,359
Total:	\$ 49,548

Acting Ministers

- 10 If travel is approved, in my absence my Foreign Affairs portfolio will be covered by Hon Judith Collins on 6 April, Hon Todd McClay from 7 – 12 April, and Hon Nicola Willis from 13 – 14 April. Hon and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my Racing portfolio from 6 – 14 April.

Proactive release

- 11 This Cabinet 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

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
 - 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Saturday 6 April to Sunday 14 April 2024 to travel to United States;
 - 1.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$49,548 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs.
 - 1.3 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
 - 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by two officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry.
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Judith Collins will cover my Foreign Affairs portfolio on 6 April
 - 1.5.2 Hon Todd McClay will cover my Foreign Affairs portfolio from 7 – 12 April
 - 1.5.3 Hon Nicola Willis will cover my Foreign Affairs portfolio from 13 - 14 April
 - 1.5.4 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my Racing portfolio
 - 1.6 Note that during my absence I will be unable to attend Cabinet or Cabinet Committee meetings during the week of 8 to 14 April.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs