

Proactive Release

Statutory publication date: 28/05/2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel Hon Todd McClay – April 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0125
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April-May 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 codes:

- s6(a): to protect the international relations of the New Zealand government;
- s6(e)(vi): to protect information that would seriously damage the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions on the entering into of overseas trade agreements.



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 Todd McClay - April 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 15 April 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 29 April to 8 May 2024, to travel to:
 - 1.1 the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to advance the New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council free trade negotiations;
 - 1.2 Paris, France to attend the annual Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and bilateral discussions;
 - 1.3 United Arab Emirates for bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$53,265 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 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April-May 2024

- 1 I write to seek your approval to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 29 April to 8 May in my capacity as Minister for Trade.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 In Saudi Arabia, my primary objective will be to advance New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) free trade negotiations s6(a)

and undertake activities to promote New Zealand businesses engaged in the Saudi market.

- 4 In Paris, I will attend the annual Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). I will progress key trade objectives in bilateral meetings with ministerial counterparts and advance New Zealand's WTO objectives in a WTO mini-ministerial hosted by Australia. I will host a meeting for the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS), s6(e)(vi)

Alongside high-level representatives from the European Commission, I will also mark the entry into force of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement.

- 5 In the United Arab Emirates, subject to Cabinet approval of a negotiating mandate, I intend to announce the launch of negotiations on the CEPA. I will also conduct meetings with s6(a) and Emirates Airlines President Sir Tim Clark KBE, and investigate further opportunities to strengthen business links.

Ministerial Party

6 I will be accompanied by:

6.1 one staff member from my office, my Private Secretary (Trade). Travel expenses of the Ministerial party will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

6.2 an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

Travel Costs

7 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$39,900.00
Accommodation:	\$ 6,232.00
Gifts and miscellaneous:	\$ 2,291.00
Contingency [10%]:	\$ 4,842.00
Total:	\$53,265.00

Acting Ministers

8 If my travel is approved, I note that the house is sitting during my absence. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios:

8.1 Agriculture – Hon Mark Patterson

8.2 Forestry – Hon Simon Watts

8.3 Hunting and Fishing – Hon Tama Potaka

8.4 Trade – Rt Hon Winston Peters

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Monday, 29 April 2024 to Wednesday, 8 May 2024, to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France and the United Arab Emirates in my capacity as Minister for Trade.

1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$53,265 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;

- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by that Ministry;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Mark Patterson will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
 - 1.5.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry
 - 1.5.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 - 1.5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Proactively released by the Minister for Trade