

# Proactive Release

Statutory publication date  
9/5/2024

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

Title	Reference
<b><i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed overseas travel Rt Hon Winston Peters – March 2024</i></b>	CAB-24-MIN-0091

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.



# 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 - March 2024

Portfolio                      Foreign Affairs

On 25 March 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 30 March to 7 April 2024, to travel to:
  - 1.1      United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland and Sweden for bilateral discussions;
  - 1.2      Belgium to participate in a session of the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting and hold bilateral discussions;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$121,922 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, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Judith Collins act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
  - 5.2      Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;
- 6        **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

## Restricted

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

### Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – Saturday 30 March – Sunday 7 April 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland, Belgium, and Sweden from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April 2024 for the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting and engagements with key partners.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

#### Purpose of Travel

- 3 If approved, I intend to travel to the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland, and Sweden for bilateral engagements; and Belgium for engagements with counterparts from the European Union (EU) and to participate in a session of the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting together with NATO's partners in the Indo-Pacific (Australia, Japan, and South Korea). I also intend to meet bilaterally with a number of counterparts in the margins of the NATO meeting.
- 4 My participation in the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting will allow me to underline the importance New Zealand places on its long-standing relationship with NATO, and the premium we place on working with likeminded partners at a time when the rules-based international system is under significant stress. It will allow me to exchange perspectives with NATO partners on common global and regional security challenges, including in relation to Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific and the situation in the Middle East and to build a clearer understanding of shared priorities,<sup>s6(a)</sup>
- 5 I will use the opportunity of my travel to undertake bilateral visits to the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland, Belgium, and Sweden to:
  - In the **United Arab Emirates**, deepen the bilateral relationship with a very close partner in the Middle East, including exchanging perspectives on regional security issues, climate change cooperation, and prospects for stronger economic ties via the New Zealand–Gulf Cooperation Council free trade agreement negotiations and a potential New Zealand–UAE Closer Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA);

- In **Egypt**, acknowledge 2024 as the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Egypt–New Zealand diplomatic relations, and gain insights into regional security issues, including the Israel-Hamas conflict and in the Red Sea;
- In **Poland**, reinvigorate ties <sup>s6(a)</sup> including seeking insights into the war in Ukraine and other regional security issues, and marking the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Pahiatua refugee children in New Zealand;
- In **Belgium**, engage with the EU as a key partner to exchange views on regional issues and look forward to realising the benefits of the New Zealand–European Union Free Trade Agreement;
- At the **NATO Foreign Ministers’ Meeting in Belgium**, exchange views with key counterparts and <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- In **Sweden**, signal our appreciation for the role Sweden continues to play as one of our most likeminded partners within the EU and reinforce the importance of the bilateral relationship.

### Outline of Proposed visit

6 In the United Arab Emirates, I intend to:

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

7 In Egypt, I intend to:

7.1 Meet with Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry;

7.2 Meet with Arab League Secretary General Aboul-Gait.

8 In Poland, I intend to:

8.1 Meet with Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski;

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

8.3 Engage with the Ukrainian Refugee Community;

8.4 Commemorate the 80th anniversary of the arrival of the Pahiatua refugee children in New Zealand.

9 In Belgium, I intend to:

9.1 Attend a session of the NATO Foreign Ministers' Meeting together with NATO's partners in the Indo Pacific (Australia, Japan, and South Korea), and the European Union;

9.2 Meet with key EU contacts, including High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell;

9.3 Meet with key counterparts, such as the UK, <sup>s6(a)</sup>

10 In Sweden, I intend to:

10.1 Meet with Foreign Minister Billström;

<sup>s6(a)</sup>

11 If travel is approved, I will depart for Abu Dhabi on Saturday 30 March via Singapore, and return to New Zealand on Sunday 7 April.

**Ministerial Party**

12 I propose to be accompanied by my Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Senior Private Secretary. Travel costs of this official delegation will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. 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**

13 The estimated cost for this travel is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
<b>Flights</b>	\$83,055
<b>Singapore (Transit)</b>	
Facilitation	\$2,100
<i>Singapore Subtotal</i>	<i>\$2,100</i>
<b>United Arab Emirates</b>	
Accommodation	\$1,140
Airport facilitation	Nil

Transport	Nil
Meals	\$315
Gifts	\$600
<i>United Arab Emirates Subtotal</i>	<i>\$2,055</i>
<b>Egypt</b>	
Accommodation	\$1,900
Airport facilitation	\$100
Transport	\$2,000
Meals	\$900
Gifts	\$600
<i>Egypt subtotal</i>	<i>\$5,500</i>
<b>Poland</b>	
Accommodation	\$1,020
Airport facilitation	Nil
Transport	Nil
Meals	\$300
Hospitality/representation costs (based on 50/50 split with NZ Embassy)	\$1,000 (total \$2,000)
Gifts	\$600
<i>Poland subtotal</i>	<i>\$2,320</i>
<b>Belgium</b>	
Accommodation	\$3,700
Airport facilitation	Nil
Transport	\$4,000
Meals	\$678

Hospitality/representation costs (based on 50/50 split with NZ Embassy)	\$4,000 (\$8,000 total)
Meeting room hire	\$1,100
<i>Belgium subtotal</i>	\$13,478
<b>Sweden</b>	
Accommodation	\$1,700
Transport	Nil
Meals	\$630
<i>Sweden subtotal</i>	\$2,330
<b>Overall subtotal</b>	\$110,838
<b>Contingency 10%</b>	\$11,084
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$121,922</b>

### Acting Ministers

- 14 If travel is approved, in my absence Hon Judith Collins will cover my foreign affairs portfolio, and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio.

### Proactive release

- 15 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

- 16 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 16.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April 2024 to travel to the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Poland, Belgium, and Sweden;
  - 16.2 approve the estimated expenditure of NZD \$121,922 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

- 16.3 agree that I be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 16.4 note that I will be accompanied by two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 16.5 agree that in my absence:
  - 16.5.1 Hon Judith Collins will cover my foreign affairs portfolio from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April;
  - 16.5.2 and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio from Saturday 30 March to Sunday 7 April;
- 16.6 note that the House will not be sitting during my absence;
- 16.7 note that during my absence I will be unable to attend Cabinet or Cabinet Business Committee on 2 April.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs