

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 24/01/2025

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 – November 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0454
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – November 2024</i>	

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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 – November 2024

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 18 November 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 23 November to 1 December 2024, to travel to France, Germany, and the United Kingdom for bilateral engagements;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by:
 - 2.1 two members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT);
 - 2.2 his partner;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$111,465.00 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 MFAT, whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that during his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 23 to 30 November 2024;
 - 5.2 Hon Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs on 1 December 2024;
 - 5.3 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 – Europe – November 2024

- 1 We seek Cabinet approval to travel to France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (UK) from Saturday 23 November to Sunday 1 December 2024 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 Against the backdrop of the foreign policy reset agreed to by Cabinet and our deep focus on the Pacific and traditional partners, the three destinations selected for this travel are critical to New Zealand.
- 4 France is an influential European Union (EU) Member State with permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and Group of Seven (G7), a notable trading partner for New Zealand, and the seventh largest economy in the world, with a global footprint and military presence. France is a driving force behind more active EU engagement in the Indo-Pacific, and has an enduring common interest in the stability, sustainability, and prosperity of the Pacific region. ^{s6(a)}
- 5 Germany is the world's third largest economy and New Zealand's largest trading partner in the EU, with G7, Group of 20 and NATO membership. It is a science and innovation powerhouse, a leader in sustainable economic transition, the second largest development contributor in the world, and a significant global power with an interest in engaging more in our region. Germany is an increasingly important security force (and the second largest contributor to Ukraine after the US) and plays an important role in international affairs. New Zealand and Germany view one another as like-minded partners, which share a strong desire to promote a more secure, sustainable, and prosperous world through the international rules-based system.
- 6 New Zealand's relationship with the UK is integral to our national security and economic prosperity. The UK is a traditional security, defence, and intelligence partner for New Zealand. It is a permanent member of the UNSC, founding member of NATO, G7 and the Commonwealth, a part of the Five Eyes

community and an AUKUS member. The UK is a particularly strong voice in support of the international rules-based system. We have strong historical and cultural ties and share values, interests and perspectives on a range of security challenges. Our gold standard FTA with the UK, and the UK's membership of CPTPP, can be leveraged for economic growth and productivity gains.

7 The objectives of the visit to Europe are to:

- 7.1 Build and strengthen relationships with key ministerial counterparts and political contacts in France, Germany, and the UK;
- 7.2 Shape the strategic and tactical engagement of France, Germany and the UK in the Indo-Pacific region, where we share deep interests;
- 7.3 Reinforce and demonstrate New Zealand's status as a knowledgeable, effective, reliable, and constructive partner on geostrategic and security issues, bilaterally, regionally, and multilaterally;
- 7.4 Raise awareness of New Zealand's foreign policy priorities and responses to an increasingly complex and contested world; and exchange views on conflicts and flash points with global implications, including Ukraine, the Middle East, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

8 In France we expect to:

- 8.1 Hold official engagements with the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister attached to the Prime Minister, Responsible for Overseas Territories, François-Noël Buffet, member(s) of the Opposition, and senior advisors to President Macron.
- 8.2 Give a foreign policy speech at a leading institution to an audience of key political and foreign policy contacts.

9 In Germany we expect to:

- 9.1 Hold official engagements with the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, Annalena Baerbock, the Chancellor's Foreign and Security Policy Adviser, Jens Ploetner, members of the Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee, Pacific Parliamentary Friendship Group, and the Opposition.

10 In the United Kingdom we expect to:

- 10.1 Hold official meetings with Foreign Secretary, David Lammy including the inaugural Foreign Ministers' Dialogue, meet members of the Opposition, engage in a foreign policy discussion at **Scotland House** with key political and foreign policy contacts.

Please note: The discussion was held at the New Zealand High Commission, not Scotland House.

Ministerial Party

- 11 Accompanying will be my spouse, Jan Trotman, and Specialist Ministerial Adviser, whose costs will be charged to Vote: Internal Affairs – Members of the Executive – Travel. Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and a senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also accompany, whose costs will be covered by the Ministry.
- 12 The delegation will depart for France on 23 November, before travelling to Germany on 27 November and the United Kingdom on 28 November. We will be returning to New Zealand on 1 December 2024.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated costs of the travel for the delegation of three include¹:

Airfares:	\$ 65,637.00
Accommodation:	\$ 8,538.00
Ground transportation	\$ 10,080.00
Reception events	\$ 7,581.86
Interpretation	\$ 3,582.00
Facilitation	\$ 8,988.00
Gifts	\$ 400.00
Meals	\$ 1,350.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 5,307.84

Total: \$ (rounded up to nearest \$) 111,465.00

Acting Ministers

- 14 Hon Shane Jones will cover the foreign affairs portfolio from 23–30 November inclusive, and Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio for 1 December 2024 inclusive.
- 15 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover the racing portfolio from 23 November–1 December 2024 inclusive.

¹ Rt Hon Winston Peters, spouse and Senior Specialist Ministerial Adviser to Rt Hon Winston Peters

Proactive release

- 16 This Cabinet paper is proposed for proactive release, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 We recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise our absence from New Zealand, from Saturday 23 November to Sunday 1 December 2024 (inclusive);
 - 1.2 agree that we be accompanied by our Specialist Ministerial Adviser and Ms Trotman, with costs charged back to Vote Internal Affairs – Members of the Executive – Travel;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$111,465.00 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial delegation, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
 - 1.4 note that we will be accompanied by our Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser, seconded from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to our Office, along with a senior official from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 1.5 agree that in our absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Shane Jones and Hon Todd McClay will cover the foreign affairs portfolio;
 - 1.5.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover the racing portfolio;
 - 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during our absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister for Foreign Affairs