

Proactive Release

Date: 8 April 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

***Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau
[Kuwait, Qatar, UAE] (CAB-19-SUB-55 refers)***

***Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Under-Secretary Fletcher Tabuteau
[Kuwait, Qatar, UAE] (CAB-19-MIN-0055 refers)***

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 Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act 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 redaction codes:

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

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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: Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Portfolio **Foreign Affairs**

On 25 February 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fletcher Tabuteau MP, from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 3 to 9 March 2019, to travel to Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to undertake bilateral discussions;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$34,983 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that accommodation, transport and meal costs in Kuwait will be met by the Government of Kuwait.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Fletcher Tabuteau MP

Chair,
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNDER-SECRETARY FLETCHER
TABUTEAU**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 3 to 9 March 2019 for bilateral meetings to advance New Zealand's political and trade interests. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

Travel Objectives

2 The objectives for the visit to **Kuwait** (5 March) are:

- Demonstrate the value New Zealand places on our long-standing, positive s6(a) bilateral relationship with Kuwait by registering common trade and security interests with counterparts, including the Deputy Foreign Minister.
- Open the door for the New Zealand Government-to-Government (G2G) team to work with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Commerce on ease of doing business and economic reform; and meet with the Kuwaiti Investment Authority to ensure that New Zealand's investment regime is well understood.
- Enhance New Zealand's position as a destination of choice for Kuwaiti international students.

3 The objectives for the visit to **Qatar** (6 – 7 March) are:

- Reinforce the strength of our bilateral relationship with Qatar, an important partner for New Zealand in the region, s6(a)
- Advance New Zealand's trade access and profile into Qatar s6(a)
- Reinforce the value of the daily Qatar Airways flight to Auckland.
- s6(a)
- Strengthen opportunities for G2G in Qatar on policing and food safety.

4 The objectives for my visit to the **UAE** (4 March) are:

- Engage with all of New Zealand's Ambassadors to the Middle East and Africa region on the Government's priorities for 2019 during their annual meeting.
- Maximise my brief stay in UAE by meeting with NZ Inc leadership team in Dubai on Expo2020 planning and leveraging opportunities for New Zealand; and exploring cultural and educational cooperation initiatives in Sharjah, including visiting New Zealand Artist in Residence, Lisa Reihana.

Travel

5 I propose to depart New Zealand on the evening of Sunday 3 March, staying one night each in the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar and returning to New Zealand on the morning of Saturday 9 March.

Travelling Party

6 I propose to be accompanied by a Foreign Affairs Private Secretary in the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Under-Secretary Responsibilities

7 I propose that the Minister of Foreign Affairs cover my Foreign Affairs responsibilities and that the Minister for Regional Economic Development cover my Regional Economic Development responsibilities during the travelling period.

Costs of Travel

8 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the travelling party are:

Airfares:	\$29,857
Accommodation and other expenses*:	\$2,800
Hospitality and gifts:	\$660
Contingency (5%):	\$1,666
Total	\$34,983

* The Government of Kuwait will cover transport, accommodation and meal charges for the Under-Secretary.

Proactive Release

9 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

10 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE from 3 to 9 March 2019 in my capacity as Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs;
- b) **note** that I would be accompanied by one staff member from the office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- c) **approve** expenditure up to \$34,983 for the expenses of the travelling party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel; and
- d) **agree** that my Under-Secretary responsibilities be covered by the respective Ministers from 3 to 9 March 2019.

Approved for lodgement

Fletcher Tabuteau MP
Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development

Proactively released by
the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs