

Proactive Release

Date: 17 April 2024

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters – March 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0062
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters: India, Indonesia and Singapore: 10-16 March 2024	

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 security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.



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 4 March 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand from 10 to 16 March 2024, to travel to India, Indonesia and Singapore for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, and one of whom will be a charge to Vote Foreign Affairs;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$52,879 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon Todd McClay will act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 4.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will act as Minister for Racing;
- 5 **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: India, Indonesia and Singapore: 10-16 March 2024

1 I seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to India, Indonesia and Singapore from Sunday 10 March till Saturday 16 March 2024 inclusive.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

3 s9(2)(f)(iv)

s6(a)

4 During the first few months of our government, my focus has been on lifting New Zealand's international engagement – so as to combat the sense of drift, inaction and disengagement under our predecessors – including via introductory calls with and overseas visits with our priority international partners. This has had a particular focus on the Pacific Islands region, our traditional partners, and South and South East Asia. This proposed visit is a centrepiece of that early reengagement strategy.

Outline of Proposed Visit

5 During my visit to **India**, I intend to travel to Ahmedabad, Gujarat (a state that is an engine of Indian economic growth and the home state of Prime Minister Narendra Modi) and New Delhi. I intend to seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:

- s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)
- External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar;
- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval;
- Chief Minister of the Gujarat state Bhupendrabhai Patel;
- s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)
- Meetings with influential stakeholders in the agricultural industry;
- A panel discussion on the role of New Zealand and India in the Pacific; and

- An evening reception focused on Pacific-New Zealand-India connections.

6 During my visit to **Indonesia**, I intend to seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:

- A bilateral meeting with current Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto
s6(a)
- A bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi;
- An engagement marking the fifth anniversary of the March 15 attacks. This has historical resonance because Jakarta was the first place I visited as Foreign Minister in the days following the attacks, and Foreign Minister Marsudi played an integral role in aiding New Zealand in managing the aftermath of the attacks in the Muslim world; and
- s6(a)

7 During my visit to **Singapore**, I intend to seek the following calls and undertake the following engagements:

- s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)
- A call on Singapore's Minister of Defence and Honorary Adviser of the Asia New Zealand Foundation, Ng Eng Hen; and
- A meeting with Richard Chandler, New Zealand businessperson who chairs the Clermont Group.

8 If travel is approved, I will depart for India on Sunday 10 March, returning to New Zealand on Saturday 16 March. The visit takes place during a Parliamentary recess week and would preclude my attendance at the Cabinet and Cabinet Business Committee meetings on Monday 11 March.

Ministerial Party

9 If my travel is approved, I will be accompanied by my Senior Specialist Ministerial Adviser and our costs will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel. I will also be accompanied by my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser, seconded to my office from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. His costs will be covered by the Ministry.

Acting Ministers

10 If travel is approved, Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio and Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio in my absence.

Estimated Cost

11 The estimated cost for this travel is summarised in the table below:

Flights	NZ\$34,000
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Flights total	NZ\$34,000
INDIA	
Accommodation ^{s6(a)}	s6(a)
Meals	
Ground transport	
Pacific Night Reception	
<i>Total cost:</i>	NZ\$18,300
<i>Minister's Office contribution:</i>	NZ\$9,150
^{s6(a)}	
Gifts	NZ\$950
India total	NZ\$10,770
INDONESIA	
Accommodation (two nights given early arrival in Jakarta x two people)	s6(a)
Ground transport – Police outriders	NZ\$200
Meals (during Ramadan)	NZ\$280
Gifts	NZ\$360
Indonesia total	NZ\$2,502
SINGAPORE	
VIP Facilitation	NZ\$800
Singapore total	NZ\$800
Subtotal	NZ\$48,072
Contingency 10%	NZ\$4,807.20
GRAND TOTAL	NZ\$52,879.20

Proactive release

12 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

13 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 13.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from Sunday 10 March till Saturday 16 March for bilateral visits to India, Indonesia and Singapore;
- 13.2 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$52,879 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 13.3 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office, one of whom will be a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs, and one of whom will be a charge to Vote: Foreign Affairs;
- 13.4 **agree** that in my absence:
- 13.4.1 Hon Todd McClay will cover my foreign affairs portfolio from Sunday 10 March to Saturday 16 February 2024; &
- 13.4.2 Hon Andrew Bayly will cover my racing portfolio from Sunday 10 March to Saturday 16 February 2024;
- 13.5 **note** that the House is not sitting during my absence, but I will miss the Cabinet meeting of Monday 11 March.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs