

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 31 March 2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 14 February 2025</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0033
<i>Cabinet Legislation Committee Minute of Decision: Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025</i>	LEG-25-MIN-0001
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025</i>	

The Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025 can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2025/0006/latest/LMS1024552.html#LMS1024570>

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;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.



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.

Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 14 February 2025

On 17 February 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 14 February 2025:

LEG-25-MIN-0001	Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025	CONFIRMED
	Portfolio: Foreign Affairs	

s9(2)(g)(ii)
Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 13 February 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 s6(a)
- 3 **noted** that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025 will give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
- 4 **noted** that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible Minister must be satisfied that:
 - 4.1 the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and
 - 4.2 the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 5 **noted** the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs (the Minister) that the above requirement has been met;
- 6 **noted** that, before recommending an extension of the Russia Sanctions Regulations, the Minister must be satisfied that the regulations are still required for the purpose of the regulations;
- 7 **noted** the advice of the Minister that the above requirement has been met;
- 8 s6(a)

- 9 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025 [PCO 26871/6.0].

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello

Officials present from:

Official's Committee for LEG
Leader of the House's Office

Proactively released by the
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025 (the Regulations).

Policy

- 2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs is the Responsible Minister under the Russia Sanctions Act 2022 (the Act), and therefore has discretion to decide whether to recommend that sanctions regulations be made under the Act.
- 3 s6(a)
- 4 The regulations will:
 - 4.1 implement sanctions measures under the Act, designating individuals and entities that have provided assistance to Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and,
 - 4.2 amend the revocation date to extend the Russia Sanctions Regulations to 17 March 2028.

Timing and 28-day rule

- 5 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 6 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Compliance

- 7 The regulations are in line with the intent and purpose of the Act, and comply with each of the following:
 - 7.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;

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- 7.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993;
 - 7.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 7.4 relevant international standards and obligations;
 - 7.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.
- 8 Section 8 of the Act sets out a threshold which the responsible Minister must be satisfied has been met before recommending that an Order in Council be made with regard to sanctions under section 9 of the Act. The Section 8 threshold is that: (i) the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and (ii) the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently.
- 9 The Minister is satisfied that the threshold in section 8 has been met for the sanction measures in the recommended regulations, including with regard to the designation of each individual and entity as identified in Annex 1 of the submission to the Minister of 29 January 2025, entitled *Russia Sanctions: Three years on from Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine*.

Regulations Review Committee

- 10 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

- 11 The draft regulations were certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact Analysis

- 12 s6(a)
- 13 A Regulatory Impact Assessment was prepared for the extension of the revocation date in accordance with the necessary requirements, and was submitted at the time Cabinet gave policy approval for the extension [CAB-MIN-0456].

Publicity

- 14 The regulations will be publicised through a press release by the Minister of Foreign Affairs to mark three years since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine and an update to the New Zealand Sanctions Register (as required by section 14 of the Act). The

Ministry will also email information to those who subscribe to its Russia Sanctions Updates service.

Proactive release

- 15 This paper will be released proactively with appropriate redactions within 30 business days of the decisions being confirmed by Cabinet. It is expected that the announcement will have been made within this period.

Consultation

- 16 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has consulted the following agencies in developing the draft regulations: Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand Police, Defence, Land Information New Zealand, Customs, Immigration, the Reserve Bank, the Financial Markets Authority, Transport, Treasury, and Oranga Tamariki.

Recommendations

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 s6(a)
- 3 note that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025 will give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
- 4 note that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible Minister must be satisfied that: (i) the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and (ii) the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 5 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 6 note that, before recommending an extension of the Russia Sanctions Regulations, the Minister must be satisfied that the regulations are still required for the purpose of the regulations;
- 7 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 8 s6(a)

s6(a)

- 9 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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Minister of Foreign Affairs