

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 25 November 2025

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

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - October / November 2025	Cab-25-MIN-0352
Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Winston Peters - October / November 2025	



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 - October/November 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 13 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 19 October to 2 November 2025, to travel to the United Kingdom, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark to undertake bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by three members of staff from his office, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$116,534 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 Todd McClay act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 19 to 28 October 2025;
 - 5.2 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 29 October to 2 November 2025;
 - 5.3 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Rail from 19 to 22 October 2025;
 - 5.4 Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Rail from 23 October to 2 November 2025;
 - 5.5 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is 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 – October-November 2025

- 1 Cabinet approval is sought to travel to United Kingdom, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland from Sunday 19 October to Sunday 2 November 2025 (inclusive).
- 2 The Prime Minister's Office has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of the travel is to undertake bilateral engagements in all six destination countries and engage in the inaugural New Zealand-Nordic 5 meeting.
- 4 Our travel to London and meeting with new Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper will be a chance to underline New Zealand's value as a reliable and trusted partner in support of the rules-based international order. Engagements during the visit will identify where New Zealand and the United Kingdom foreign policy priorities intersect and will allow an opportunity to discuss practical cooperation in support of shared objectives. We will be able to register several New Zealand requests with the Foreign Secretary Cooper and seek her support.
- 5 Our travel to Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark will consist of bilateral engagements at each destination and the first ever New Zealand-Nordic 5 meeting. These meetings will emphasise the importance of the international rules-based order, including existing close cooperation at the United Nations and in other multilateral fora, in order to preserve and protect elements of key significance to the Nordic 5 and New Zealand.
- 6 Meetings will allow for exchange perspectives on key strategic challenges for our respective regions, including polar governance, geopolitical issues, and national security and resilience. We will also leverage existing linkages and strong alignment to build partnerships in science, technology, and innovation by advancing education, research, and space cooperation, and expand collaboration across key sectors including polar sciences, energy, transport, and manufacturing.

Outline of proposed visit

- 7 We intend to undertake the following key engagements:
 - 7.1 United Kingdom:

- the annual New Zealand–United Kingdom Foreign Ministers’ Dialogue;
- Bilateral meeting with Foreign Secretary Cooper;
- Participate in the Oxford Union Debate;

7.2 Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland:

- Hold the first New Zealand-Nordic 5 meeting with counterparts followed by a press conference;
- Undertake bilateral engagement with ministerial counterparts:
 - Iceland President Halla Tómasdóttir;
 - Norwegian Foreign Minister Eide;
 - Danish Foreign Minister Rasmussen;
 - Swedish Foreign Minister Stenergard;
 - Finnish Speaker of the Parliament of Finland Halla-aho, Minister of Foreign Affairs Elina Valtonen;
- Meet with a range of other important interlocutors and business leaders across the region;
- Deliver an address to the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.

Ministerial Party

- 8 We propose that the Senior Ministerial Adviser and my spouse join the delegation. Their travel costs would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 9 This paper proposes that my Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade also travel in support of the visit objectives. Their costs would be covered by the Ministry.
- 10 The delegation would depart for United Kingdom on Sunday 19 October on a commercial service. We would then travel to Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and Finland, returning to New Zealand on Sunday 2 November also via commercial services.

Travel Costs

- 11 The estimated costs are as follows:

Item	NZ\$
Flights	67,880
Reykjavik, Iceland	
Accommodation	3,100
Transportation <i>Shared 50% with MFAT</i>	2,530
Hospitality	0
Gifts	0

Other expenses Per diems (one day) = ISK 21,086	300
Reykjavik total	5,930
London, United Kingdom	
Accommodation London - 2 rooms for 2 nights @ £475/night/room = £2,850 Oxford – one day room = £180 Heathrow – 2 rooms for 1 night @ £211/night/room = £422	5,795
Transportation Estimated cost for drivers/driver overtime <i>Shared 50% with MFAT</i>	580
Hospitality	2,315
Gifts	450
Other expenses Per diems (4 days) = £744	1,725
London total	10,865
Oslo, Norway	
Accommodation 2 rooms for one night @ NOK3695 per room	1,270
Transportation 8 hours 1 VIP Sedan @ NOK 2897 / NZ\$ 500 per hour <i>Shared 50% with MFAT</i>	2,000
Hospitality <i>50% cost share with MFAT</i>	480
Other expenses Per diems (one day)	500
Oslo total	4,250
Copenhagen, Denmark	
Accommodation	0

Provided by host	
Transportation	0
Gifts	0
Other expenses Per diems (2 days)	575
Copenhagen total	575
Stockholm, Sweden	
Accommodation 2 rooms for 2 nights (NZD\$1145.5 per room) = SEK 12600	2,290
Transportation 8 hours 1 VIP sedan @ SEK 2737.5 / NZD 500 per hour = SEK 26,280 <i>Shared 50% with MFAT</i>	2,395
Gifts	1,945
Hospitality Speech venue and one dinner <i>50% cost share with MFAT</i>	12,225
Other expenses Per diems (2 days) at SEK569 per day = SEK2,276	415
Stockholm total	19,270
Helsinki, Finland	
Accommodation <i>Provided by host</i>	0
Transportation	0
Gifts	0
Hospitality	420
Other expenses Per diems (2 days)	810
Helsinki total	1,230
Amsterdam, Netherlands	

Airport facilitation at Schipol Airport	985
Amsterdam total	985
Sub total	110,985
Contingency 5%	5,549
Total	116,534

Acting Ministers

12 Portfolios would be covered by:

RAIL:

- 19-22 October: Minister Patterson
- - 23 October–2 November: Minister Brown

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- 19-28 October: Minister McClay
- 29 October-2 November: Minister Patterson

RACING: Minister Patterson

Proactive release

13 This Cabinet paper would 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

1 This paper recommends that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 19 October to 2 November 2025 (inclusive) to travel to United Kingdom, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden, and Denmark undertake bilateral visits;
- 1.2 note that my Specialist Ministerial Adviser and my spouse would accompany the visit;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of NZD\$116,534 the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that the Senior Foreign Affairs Adviser and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade would also accompany, whose travel costs would be met by the Ministry;

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- 1.5 agree that in my absence:
- 1.5.1 Hon McClay would act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 19-28 October;
 - 1.5.2 Hon Patterson would act as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 29 October-2 November; and
 - 1.5.3 Hon Patterson would act as Minister for Rail from 19-22 October;
 - 1.5.4 Hon Brown would act as Minister for Rail from 23 October-2 November; and
 - 1.5.5 Hon Patterson would act as Minister for Racing;
- 1.6 note that the House is sitting during the first week of my absence only.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs