

Proactive Release

Date: 3 April 2023

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-23-MIN-0039

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; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



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: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio Trade and Export Growth

On 20 February 2023, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 23 to 27 February 2023 to travel to Japan to meet with the Japanese Minister responsible for the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$40,241 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 two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, with their travel costs met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Rino Tirikatene act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.3 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Biosecurity;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament will be sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[RESTRICTED]~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Japan from 23-27 February 2023.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of travel is to meet with the Japanese Minister responsible for the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), Shigeyuki Goto, ahead of the upcoming negotiating round on the United Kingdom's accession to CPTPP which will take place in Viet Nam from 27 February to 3 March.

4 s9(2)(j)

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8 ^{s9(2)(i)}
I intend to travel to Japan to meet with Minister Goto (the Chair of the UK's accession working group), ^{s9(2)(i)}

9 I will use the opportunity for discussions with Japan on wider CPTPP issues, in support of my role as Chair of the CPTPP Ministerial Commission in 2023.
^{s6(a)}

10 While in Japan I also plan to meet with the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Yasutoshi Nishimura to discuss wider trade and economic issues between our two countries.

Ministerial Party

11 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my Office and two MFAT officials. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

12 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights	\$27,302
Accommodation	\$4,512
Facilitation	\$1,000
Ground transport	\$1,000
Hospitality/representation	\$500
Total per diem	\$678
Gifts	\$0
Interpretation	\$0
Contingency of 15%	\$5,249
Total	\$40,241

Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
Agriculture and Biosecurity – Hon Meka Whaitiri
Land Information – Hon Andrew Little
Trade and Export Growth – Hon Rino Tirikatene

Proactive release

14 This 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

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 23-27 February to travel to Japan;
- 15.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
- 15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$40,241, the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 15.4 note that two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will join the delegation and their travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 15.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Land Information), Hon Rino Tirikatene (Trade and Export Growth); and Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture and Biosecurity) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
- 15.6 note that leave from Parliament will be sought from the Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth