

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 22 May 2025

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision –</i>	CAB-25-MIN-0106
<i>Cabinet Legislation Committee - Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025</i>	LEG-25-MIN-0042
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025</i>	

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; and
- 9(2)(g)(ii): to protect officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

The Annex to this Cabinet paper is publicly available here:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2025/0062/latest/096be8ed81f20885.pdf>



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 4 April 2025

On 7 April 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 4 April 2025:

LEG-25-MIN-0042

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

CONFIRMED

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Secretary of the Cabinet



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 3 April 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 **noted** that on 6 March 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs approved an application under section 13 of the Act made by Alexander Abramov and his relatives for the revocation of sanctions imposed on them, and agreed to recommend to the Governor-General that regulations sanctioning Alexander Abramov and his relatives be revoked;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Foreign Affairs must decide an application for the revocation of regulations under section 13 of the Act in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction;
- 4 **noted** the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 5 **noted** that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible Minister must be satisfied that:
 - 5.1 the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine or another country; and
 - 5.2 the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 6 **noted** the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 7 **noted** that on 26 March 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs approved the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025;
- 8 **noted** that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 will revoke sanctions on Alexander Abramov and his relatives and thereby give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;
- 9 s6(a)

- 10 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 [PCO 27229/3.0].

s9(2)(g)(ii)

Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Simeon Brown (Chair)
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Stuart Smith, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Minister of Education's Office

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Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation for submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 (the regulations).

Policy

- 2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs (the Minister) is the responsible Minister under the Russia Sanctions Act 2022 (the Act), and has the discretion to decide whether to recommend that sanctions regulations be made, amended or revoked under the Act.
- 3 The Minister has the power to decide applications for the revocation of regulations made under the Act, and the power to recommend the revocation of regulations made under the Act.
- 4 s6(a)
- 5 The regulations will revoke sanctions on Alexander Abramov and his relatives, following the Minister's consideration of an application for revocation by these individuals (the Application).

Timing and 28-day rule

- 6 s6(a)

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;
 - 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;

POLI-1717524213-1128

7.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.

- 8 Section 13(1)(a) of the Act states that any person may apply to the Minister, on the basis of humanitarian need or for any other reason, to request that the Minister recommend the amendment or revocation of a regulation made under section 9 of the Act. Section 13(3) states that the Minister must decide the application in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction.
- 9 Section 8 of the Act sets out a threshold which the 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.
- 10 The Minister is satisfied that, as set out in the submissions entitled *Russia Sanctions - Act: Application for revocation of sanctions by Alexander Abramov and his relatives* and *Russia Sanctions – Revocation of regulations that sanction Alexander Abramov and his relatives*:
- 10.1 Approving the Application is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanctions; and
- 10.2 The section 8 threshold has been met for the regulations.

Regulations Review Committee

- 11 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

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

Impact Analysis

- 13 s6(a)

Publicity

- 14 The regulations will be publicised through an update to the New Zealand Sanctions Register (as required by section 14 of the Act). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade 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 regulations: Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand Police, Defence, Land Information New Zealand, Customs, Immigration, the Reserve Bank, the Financial Markets Authority, Transport, Regulation, and Treasury.

Recommendations

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

- 1 s6(a)
- 2 note that on 6 March 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs approved an application under section 13 of the Russia Sanctions Act made by Alexander Abramov and his relatives for the revocation of sanctions imposed on them, and agreed to recommend to the Governor-General that regulations sanctioning Alexander Abramov and his relatives be revoked;
- 3 note that the Minister of Foreign Affairs must decide an application for the revocation of regulations under section 13 of the Act in a way that is consistent with the purpose of the regulations providing for the sanction;
- 4 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 5 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;
- 6 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 7 note that on 26 March 2025, the Minister of Foreign Affairs approved the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025;
- 8 note that the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (2) 2025 will revoke sanctions on Alexander Abramov and his relatives and thereby give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above;

9 s6(a)

10 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (2) 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Minister of Foreign Affairs