

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 16/06/2026

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

Title	Reference
<i>Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 1 May 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0148
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026</i>	LGL-26-SUB-0069
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026</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;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege.



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 1 May 2026

On 4 May 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 1 May 2026:

LEG-26-MIN-0069 **Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Summary

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Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026

Portfolio	Foreign Affairs
Purpose	This paper seeks authorisation to submit the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026 (the Regulations) to the Executive Council.
Previous Decisions	s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
Proposal	Agreement is sought for new sanctions regulations within the standing policy approval.
Impact Analysis	Not applicable.
Compliance	On 22 April 2026, Parliamentary Counsel certified the Regulations as being in order for submission to Cabinet, subject to them being made on the Minister's recommendation, given in accordance with section 8 of the Act, and subject to a ^{s6(a)} The Minister advises that these requirements have been met.
Timing Matters	The Regulations will come into force on 7 May 2026.
Communications	The Minister will issue a press release. MFAT will update the New Zealand Sanctions Register and email subscribers of its Russia Sanctions Updates service.
Consultation	Paper prepared by MFAT (Foreign Affairs). LINZ, MBIE (Immigration), Defence, MoJ, MoT, Customs, Police, PCO, and the Treasury were consulted. The Minister indicates that LEG Ministers were consulted.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs recommends that the Committee:

- 1 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 2
- 3 note that, before recommending that regulations be made under the Act, the responsible
Minister must be satisfied that:
- 3.1 the regulations are appropriate to respond to threats to the sovereignty or territorial
integrity of Ukraine or another country; and
 - 3.2 the United Nations Security Council is unlikely to act or has acted insufficiently;
- 4 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the above requirements have been
met;
- 5 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 6 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment
Regulations (No 2) 2026 [PCO 28893/9.0]

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution:
Cabinet Legislation Committee

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

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

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026 (the Regulations).

Policy

- 2 The Minister of Foreign Affairs is the responsible Minister under the Russia Sanctions Act 2022 (the Act), and has discretion to decide whether to recommend that sanctions regulations be made under the Act.

3 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 4 The regulations will:

- 4.1 implement sanctions measures under the Act, designating individuals and entities that have supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine; and
- 4.2 apply the full suite of prohibitions available in the Act to the designated individuals and entities.

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Compliance

- 6 The regulations are in line with the intent and purpose of the Act, and comply with each of the following:
 - 6.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 6.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993;
 - 6.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 6.4 relevant international standards and obligations;

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

7 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.

8 s9(2)(h)

Regulations Review Committee

9 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

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

Impact Analysis

11 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Publicity

12 The Regulations will be publicised through a press release and 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

13 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

14 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has consulted the following agencies in developing the draft regulations: Parliamentary Counsel Office, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Customs Service, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Financial Markets Authority, Ministry of Justice, The Treasury, Ministry of Defence, and Land Information New Zealand.

Recommendations

We recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 ^{s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)}
- 2
- 3 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;
- 4 note the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that this requirement has been met;
- 5 ^{s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)}
- 6 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2026.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs