

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 20 July 2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the [Choose an item](#).

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 13 February 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0042
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026</i>	LEG-26-MIN-0006
<i>Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 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)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- 9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege.
- 9(2)(i): to enable a Minister, public service agency or organisation to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities;



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 13 February 2026

On 16 February 2026, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 13 February 2026:

Out of scope

LEG-26-MIN-0006

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026

CONFIRMED

Portfolio: Foreign Affairs

Out of scope

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Out of scope

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio Foreign Affairs

On 12 February 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 2 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 3 **noted** 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 **noted** the advice of the Minister of Foreign Affairs that the above requirement has been met;
- 5 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 6 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO 28637/6.0].

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG

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

Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 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)(f)(iv)
- 4 The regulations will:
 - 4.1 implement sanctions measures under the Act, designating individuals, entities and ships that have supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine;
 - 4.2 apply the full suite of prohibitions available in the Act to the designated individuals and entities; and
 - 4.3 apply two prohibitions which will:
 - 4.3.1 prohibit the designated ships from entering a New Zealand port;
 - 4.3.2 prohibit the provision of specified maritime services¹ in relation to the designated ships, irrespective of the price of the oil they are carrying.
 - 4.4 reduce the specified unit price for dealing with services in relation to the maritime transport of Russian crude oil.

s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

- 5 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)

¹ Brokering, financing, financial assistance, or insurance services.

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 The Minister is satisfied that the threshold for recommending sanctions in section 8 has been met for the Regulations, as identified in Annexes 1 and 2 of the submission to the Minister on 20 January 2026, entitled *Russia Sanctions: Tranche 34 to mark four years on*.

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)(h)

Publicity

- 12 The Regulations will be publicised through a press release by the Minister of Foreign Affairs 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

- 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, Maritime New Zealand, New Zealand Customs Service, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Reserve Bank, the Financial Markets Authority, Ministry of Justice, The Treasury, Ministry of Defence, and Land Information New Zealand.

Recommendations

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

- 1 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 2 s6(a), s9(2)(h)
- 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)(f)(iv)
- Regulations with the new
- designations to come into force on 20 February 2026; and
- 6 authorise the submission to the Executive Council of the Russia Sanctions Amendment Regulations 2026.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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