

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 11 August 2026

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Investment

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May/June 2026</i>	CAB-26-MIN-0179
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May/June 2026</i>	

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment



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 Todd McClay – May/June 2026

Portfolio Trade and Investment

On 25 May 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand from 30 May to 6 June 2026 to travel to:
 - 1.1 the United Kingdom to co-chair the third meeting of the New Zealand–United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee and to undertake bilateral meetings;
 - 1.2 Paris, France, to attend the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Ministerial Council Meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$54,530 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 be accompanied by his partner whose costs will be met by him personally;
- 5 **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;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Mike Butterick act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 6.2 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
 - 6.3 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
- 7 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – May-June 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United Kingdom and France from 29 May to 6 June. The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 2 The purpose of my visit to the UK is to co-chair the third meeting of the NZ–UK Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee, alongside my counterpart Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Peter Kyle. I will also meet with other UK Ministerial counterparts and New Zealand businesses.
- 3 In France I will lead the New Zealand delegation at the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) in Paris, where I will be a Vice-Chair. The MCM is the highest-level OECD meeting and is attended by Ministers of Trade, Foreign Affairs and Finance from its 38 Members and partner countries. I will take advantage of the OECD's convening power to meet key counterparts and progress trade issues, including supply chains and energy security.
- 4 My partner will travel with me and I confirm that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Ministerial Party

- 5 I will be accompanied by one member of staff from my office. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also support my travel. All costs for MFAT staff will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

Travel Costs

- 6 The estimated cost of this travel is below:

Airfares:	\$35,000
Accommodation/Meals	\$9,930
Transport	\$4,900
Events	\$1,600
Gifts	\$500
Contingency (5%)	\$2,600
Total:	\$54,530

Acting Ministers

- 7 If my travel is approved. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.
- 8 Minister Butterick – Agriculture
- 9 Minister Grigg – Trade and Investment
- 10 Minister Watts – Forestry

Proactive release

- 11 This paper will be proactively released within 30 business days of decisions being confirmed by Cabinet.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 2 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 May to 6 June to travel to the UK for a bilateral programme, and France, to attend the OECD Ministerial Council meeting in Paris;
- 3 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 4 note that my partner will accompany and that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.
- 5 approve the estimated expenditure of \$54,530 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 6 note that I will be accompanied by officials from MFAT, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 7 agree that in my absence:
- 8 Hon Mike Butterick will act as Minister for Agriculture;
- 9 Hon Nicola Grigg will act as Minister for Trade and Investment;
- 10 Hon Simon Watts will act as Minister of Forestry;
- 11 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment