

# Proactive Release

Date: 23 January 2020

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

***Proposed Overseas Travel Minister of Foreign Affairs 21-29 November 2019:***

***(CAB-19-MIN-0603 refers)***

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 international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



# 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: Rt Hon Winston Peters

**Portfolio** Foreign Affairs

On 18 November 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Rt Hon Winston Peters from New Zealand, from 21 to 29 November 2019, to travel to:
  - 1.1 Nagoya, Japan to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting;
  - 1.2 s6(a)
  - 1.3 the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for bilateral discussions, and to visit the Expo 2020 site in Dubai;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to up to \$69,367 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial Party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that some accommodation costs in s6(a) UAE may be met by the respective host government;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1 Hon Grant Robertson act as Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control;
  - 5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for State Owned Enterprises;
  - 5.3 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Racing;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

s6(a)

*The Minister will now return to New Zealand from*

*Japan on  
24 November and depart for the UAE on 26 November.*

**Hard-copy distribution:**  
Prime Minister  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair

Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: JAPAN, s6(a) AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:  
21 – 29 NOVEMBER 2019**

I seek Cabinet approval to travel Japan, s6(a) and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 21 – 29 November 2019. The purpose of the trip is to accept the invitation for New Zealand to participate in the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nagoya, Japan, and to undertake bilateral visits to s6(a) UAE. The Prime Minister's approval has been given in principle.

**Japan (22 – 24 November)**

2 Japan has invited New Zealand to attend the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Nagoya, Japan from 22 – 23 November. New Zealand is the only country to be invited to this meeting beyond the G20 and the eight other guest countries that attended the Leaders' Summit at Osaka in June. Objectives for the visit include:

- Demonstrate support for Japan as G20 host in its efforts to advance discussion on shared global challenges.
- Underline New Zealand's strong support for the rules-based multilateral system.
- Promote and advance New Zealand's foreign policy interests in the plenary sessions, including with respect to the promotion of free trade and our partnerships in the Pacific.
- Advance New Zealand's bilateral interests with G20 countries.

s6(a)

s6(a)

#### **United Arab Emirates (26 – 27 November)**

4 Objectives for our visit to the UAE, which we postponed earlier in the year immediately following the Christchurch terrorist attacks, are:

- Strengthen the political, trade and economic relationship with the UAE – New Zealand's strongest bilateral partner and largest market in the Middle East.
- Convey our appreciation to the UAE as one of New Zealand's strongest supporters in the aftermath of the terrorist attack in Christchurch. Our high-level visit would broaden New Zealand's profile in the UAE at a time when New Zealand is viewed favourably.
- Reinforce the importance of the UAE to New Zealand as our 10<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner and a hub for air links and trade with Europe and the Middle East region. Our visit would be valued by the UAE leadership, which places great importance on face time as a demonstration of commitment to the relationship.
- Advance New Zealand's bilateral interests through meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, His Highness Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nayhan, s6(a)

- Build on earlier Ministerial discussions about joint development cooperation in the Pacific. The UAE is significantly expanding its footprint in the Pacific
- s6(b)
- Visit the Expo 2020 Dubai site, which will be an opportunity to observe progress on the construction of the New Zealand Pavilion and highlight the extent of New Zealand's investment in Expo 2020.

## Travel

5 We propose to depart New Zealand on Thursday 21 November and return to New Zealand on Friday 29 November. The visit would take place during the one-week recess at the end of November; I would, however, be absent from Cabinet on 25 November.

## Ministerial Party

6 It is proposed that our delegation for the visit would include my Chief of Staff, as well as a foreign affairs private secretary from my office. The travel costs for the three of us would be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

## Acting Ministers

7 I propose that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and that Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio.

## Costs of Travel

8 The projected costs of the proposed travel for the Ministerial Party to be covered by a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel:

Airfares:	\$50,407
Accommodation*:	\$9,966*
Hospitality and gifts:	\$3,590
Transport:	\$0
Meals	\$2,100
Contingency	\$3,304 (5%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69,367</b>

## IN CONFIDENCE

\* The host Governments in s6(a) the UAE are expected to pay for some of my accommodation expenses, and possibly cover some of the hotel costs of the travelling delegation. The amount provided therefore is the total maximum estimated cost, and will likely be lower. The host Governments will only confirm closer to the time what expenses they will cover.

Expenditure of up to \$69,367 for travel expenses is proposed to be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.

### Proactive Release

9 I plan to release this paper in part within 30 business days. All redactions will be made in line with the Official Information Act 1982.

### Recommendation

10 I recommend that Cabinet:

- a) **approve** my proposed travel to Japan, s6(a) and the United Arab Emirates from 21 – 29 November 2019;
- b) **note** that I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff and a Private Secretary (Foreign Affairs) in my office;
- c) **approve** expenditure of up to \$69,367 for travel expenses for the official delegation as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- d) **agree** that Hon Grant Robertson act in my Foreign Affairs and Disarmament portfolios, Hon Dr David Clark act in my State Owned Enterprises portfolio, and that Hon Shane Jones act in my Racing portfolio from 21 – 29 November 2019.

### Approved for lodgement

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister of Foreign Affairs