



Intended for	All Ministers All Chief Executives Chiefs of Staff All Senior Private Secretaries Speaker of the House of Representatives Clerk of the House of Representatives General Manager, Parliamentary Service Chief Parliamentary Counsel Controller and Auditor-General Chief Ombudsman Official Secretary, Government House General Manager, Ministerial and Secretariat Services
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Arrangements for transition to a new administration

Introduction

- 1 The Leader of the Labour Party has announced her intention to form a coalition government with the New Zealand First Party, and with the support of the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand, that is able to command the confidence of the House of Representatives.
- 2 This circular sets out the next steps in the transition to a new government.

Appointment of the new ministry

- 3 Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries will be appointed by the Governor-General at a ceremony at Government House at 11 am on Thursday 26 October 2017.
- 4 The ceremony will formally mark the formation and commencement of the new government and the end of the caretaker period. The incumbent Prime Minister and all other Ministers will resign with effect from the date of the appointment of the new government.
- 5 The Cabinet Office will advise those involved in the ceremony about the arrangements.

The conduct of government over the transition period

- 6 Until the formal appointments have taken place, current Ministers continue in office. Portfolio responsibilities do not change until the previous Minister has ceased to hold office and the new Minister is appointed by the Governor-General.
- 7 Government business should as far as possible be held back until new Ministers are sworn in next week. The final Cabinet meeting of the National-led administration will be on Tuesday, 24 October 2017. It is not expected that Cabinet will deal with any substantive business at that meeting.

- 8 Ministers will act in accordance with the second arm of the caretaker convention. They will therefore undertake no new policy initiatives and will act on the advice of the incoming government on any matter of such constitutional, economic or other significance that it cannot be delayed until the new government formally takes office (see [paragraph 6.29 of the Cabinet Manual](#))

Cabinet meetings

- 9 The first Cabinet meeting of the new administration will be on Thursday, 26 October 2017.
- 10 Cabinet will next meet in the week beginning Monday, 30 October 2017.
- 11 The Cabinet Office will release further advice on the resumption of Cabinet business once the new government has been appointed and Cabinet has met.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

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