



Cabinet Office

CO (17) 12

(updated 16 October 2018)

Circular

17 January 2018

Intended for All Ministers
All Chief Executives
Chief of Staff, Prime Minister's Office
All Senior Private Secretaries
All Private Secretaries
Chief Parliamentary Counsel

Cabinet Committees: Structure, Terms of Reference and Membership

This circular has been updated to reflect the name change of the Cabinet Crown/Māori Relations Committee (CMR) to the Cabinet Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Committee (MCR), and amendments to committee membership.

- 1 The Prime Minister has agreed to the new Cabinet committee structure, terms of reference, and membership. The Cabinet committees are as follows:
 - 1.1 Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH);
 - 1.2 Cabinet Business Committee (CBC);
 - 1.3 Cabinet Priorities Committee (CPC);
 - 1.4 Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV);
 - 1.5 Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV);
 - 1.6 Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS);
 - 1.7 Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee (GOV);
 - 1.8 Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG);
 - 1.9 Cabinet Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Committee (MCR);
 - 1.10 Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC).
- 2 The list of membership and committee terms of reference is attached.

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Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH)

To consider public appointments including appointments to statutory and other government agencies, chief executive appointments, nominations for New Zealand Royal Honours, and associated policy.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Jenny Salesa

Hon Tracey Martin

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Aupito William Sio

Hon Julie Anne Genter

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets weekly during sitting weeks

Cabinet Business Committee (CBC)

To consider policy issues, appointments, bills, and regulations, and other matters that require decisions before the next scheduled applicable Cabinet committee meeting, when other committees are not meeting and the House of Representatives is adjourned. CBC will meet only on a strictly if required basis.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Tracey Martin

Hon James Shaw

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets during non-sitting weeks if required

Cabinet Priorities Committee (CPC)

- Consider overall government priorities and major strategic issues.
- Consider significant issues as determined by the Prime Minister or Cabinet. Implementation aspects of these issues will be considered by the appropriate committee, once major policy directions have been set.
- Responsible for the overall co-ordination and delivery of the government's priorities.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Tracey Martin

Hon James Shaw

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets monthly during sitting weeks.

Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV)

- Consider strategic and policy matters relating to sustainable economic, urban, and regional development, urban form and infrastructure (excluding state sector), transport, communications, research and innovation in business, and a productive, prosperous, skilled workforce.
- Ensure the co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Dr Megan Woods (Deputy Chair)

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway

Hon Jenny Salesa

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Shane Jones

Hon Kris Faafoi

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon James Shaw

Hon Eugenie Sage

Fletcher Tabuteau, MP

Relevant Portfolios¹

ACC

Agriculture

Biosecurity

Broadcasting, Communications, and Digital

Media

Building and Construction

Civil Defence

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Crown/Māori Relations

Customs

Economic Development

Energy and Resources

Environment

Employment

Finance

Fisheries

Food Safety

Forestry

Greater Christchurch Regeneration

Housing and Urban Development

Immigration

Infrastructure

Land Information

Local Government

Māori Development

Pike River

Racing

Regional Economic Development

Research, Science and Innovation

Revenue

Rural Communities

Small Business

Statistics

State Owned Enterprises

Tourism

Trade and Export Growth

Transport

Workplace Relations and Safety

Frequency

Meets weekly during sitting weeks

¹ This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.

Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV)

- Consider strategic and policy matters relating to environmental issues, sustainable energy use and resource management, including the safeguarding of New Zealand's natural resources and indigenous flora, fauna, and biodiversity, the reduction of carbon and biological emissions, and climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.
- Ensure the co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon David Parker (Chair)

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Shane Jones

Hon James Shaw (Deputy Chair)

Hon Eugenie Sage

Relevant Portfolios²

Agriculture

Biosecurity

Climate Change

Conservation

Crown/Māori Relations

Economic Development

Energy and Resources

Environment

Fisheries

Forestry

Local Government

Māori Development

Regional Economic Development

Research, Science and Innovation

Transport

Frequency

Meets fortnightly during sitting weeks

² This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.

Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS)

- Oversight of the national security and intelligence sector, and to consider strategic, policy and legislative matters relating to the sector, foreign affairs, defence (excluding Defence procurement), resilience, and significant hazards.
- Co-ordinate and direct national responses to major crises or circumstances affecting national security (either domestic or international).
- Ensure co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

ERS, or a subcommittee of ERS as determined by the Prime Minister, will have Power to Act where the need for urgent action and/or operational or security considerations require it.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Deputy Chair)

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Ron Mark

With the addition of the relevant portfolio Minister as appropriate.

Relevant Portfolios³

Biosecurity

Broadcasting, Communications, and Digital Media

Customs

Civil Defence

Defence

Foreign Affairs

GCSB

Health

Immigration

National Security and Intelligence

NZSIS

Police

Frequency

Meets monthly during sitting weeks.

³ This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.

Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee (GOV)

- Consider matters relating to state sector management and government expenditure including significant sector infrastructure, investment, and procurement proposals (including defence procurement), and related government administration matters such as the location of government functions in the regions, digital government, state sector employment relations, and promoting open government and transparency.
- Ensure the co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins (Deputy Chair)

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Ron Mark

Hon Tracey Martin

Hon Shane Jones

Hon James Shaw

Hon Julie Anne Genter

Relevant Portfolios⁴

Corrections

Defence

Education

Finance

Government Digital Services

Health

Infrastructure

Internal Affairs

Local Government

Revenue

Regional Economic Development

State Owned Enterprises

State Services

Statistics

Transport

Frequency

Meets fortnightly during sitting weeks

⁴ This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.

Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG)

To consider the legislation programme, draft Bills and regulations, government responses to petitions, select committee reports, and Law Commission reports. LEG may also consider minor policy issues relating to these matters.

Government responses to significant select committee reports and Law Commission reports should be dealt with at a policy committee if they involve significant new policy or amendments to existing policy.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway (Deputy Chair)

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Tracey Martin

Hon Julie Anne Genter

Hon Eugenie Sage

Hon Ruth Dyson (Senior Government Whip)

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets weekly during sitting weeks

Cabinet Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Committee (MCR)

- Consider strategic and policy matters relating to the Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations and the delivery of post-settlement commitments, the Crown's Treaty obligations, opportunities that exist in the post-Treaty settlement environment, and engagement between the Crown and iwi on policy issues.
- Ensure the co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Kelvin Davis (Chair)

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Deputy Chair)

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Shane Jones

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon Eugenie Sage

Relevant Portfolios⁵

Agriculture

Attorney-General

Conservation

Crown/Māori Relations

Economic Development

Environment

Fisheries

Local Government

Māori Development

Regional Economic Development

Rural Communities

Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Whānau Ora

Frequency

Meets monthly during sitting weeks

⁵ This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC)

- Consider strategic and policy matters relating to social wellbeing to support a fair and dignified standard of living for all New Zealanders, including education, health, justice, income support, access to warm, dry homes, and child poverty reduction.
- Ensure co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Jenny Salesa

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Tracey Martin (Deputy Chair)

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon Aupito William Sio

Hon Julie Anne Genter

Michael Wood, MP

Jan Logie, MP

Relevant Portfolios⁶

ACC

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Child Poverty Reduction

Children

Community and Voluntary Sector

Corrections

Courts

Crown/Māori Relations

Disability Issues

Education

Employment

Ethnic Communities

Health

Housing and Urban Development

Justice

Māori Development

Pacific Peoples

Police

Rural Communities

Seniors

Social Development

Sport and Recreation

Veterans

Whānau Ora

Women

Youth

Frequency

Meets weekly during sitting weeks

⁶ This is an indicative list of portfolios relevant to the committee's consideration. Portfolios may be listed under more than one committee. Papers should be submitted to the most relevant committee for the subject matter.