



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: Terms of Reference and Membership

This circular has been updated to reflect the changes to Ministerial portfolios that took place on 14 June 2022.

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

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Enquiries:

Diana Hawker
Deputy Secretary of the Cabinet
Ph: (04) 495 6725
diana.hawker@dpmc.govt.nz

Jenny Vickers
Senior Advisor
Ph: (04) 830 5018
jenny.vickers@dpmc.govt.nz

Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee (APH)

To consider 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)

Hon Grant Robertson (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon Jan Tinetti

Hon Kiri Allan

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Hon Aupito William Sio

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Timing

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 relevant 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)

Hon Grant Robertson (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Michael Wood

Hon Kiri Allan

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Timing

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 coordination of the delivery of the government's priorities.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)

Hon Grant Robertson (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Michael Wood

Hon Kiri Allan

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets monthly, or as required

Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV)

To consider strategy and policy relating to New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19 and building an inclusive, sustainable economy.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)

Hon Dr Megan Woods (Deputy Chair)

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon Michael Wood

Hon Kiri Allan

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Hon Meka Whaitiri

Hon Phil Twyford

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Rino Tirikatene, MP

Deborah Russell, MP

Relevant Portfolios¹

ACC

Agriculture

Biosecurity

Broadcasting and Media

Building and Construction

Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Customs

COVID-19 Response

Digital Economy and Communications

Education

Economic and Regional Development

Emergency Management

Energy and Resources

Environment

Finance

Food Safety

Forestry

Housing

Immigration

Infrastructure

Land Information

Local Government

Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Māori Development

Oceans and Fisheries

Pike River Re-entry

Racing

Research, Science and Innovation

Revenue

Rural Communities

Small Business

Statistics

State Owned Enterprises

Tourism

Trade and Export Growth

Transport

Workplace Relations and Safety

Timing

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)

To consider strategic and policy matters relating to the environment, climate change, sustainable energy use, natural resources, and resource management.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
 Hon Grant Robertson
 Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods (Deputy Chair)
Hon David Parker (Chair)
 Hon Nanaia Mahuta
 Hon Poto Williams
 Hon Damien O'Connor
 Hon Stuart Nash
 Hon Willie Jackson
 Hon Michael Wood
 Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
 Hon Phil Twyford
 Rino Tirikatene, MP

Relevant Portfolios²

Agriculture	Local Government
Biosecurity	Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Climate Change	Māori Development
Conservation	Oceans and Fisheries
Economic and Regional Development	Research, Science and Innovation
Emergency Management	Rural Communities
Energy and Resources	Transport
Environment	Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Forestry	

Timing

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), and significant hazards.
- Coordinate and direct national responses to major crises or circumstances affecting national security (either domestic or international).

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 (Chair)

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Chris Hipkins

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Deputy Chair)

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Michael Wood

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Kieran McAnulty

With the addition of the relevant portfolio Minister as appropriate.

Relevant Portfolios³

Biosecurity

GCSB

Customs

Health

Digital Economy and Communications

Immigration

Disarmament and Arms Control

National Security and Intelligence

Emergency Management

NZSIS

Defence

Police

Foreign Affairs

Timing

Meets monthly, or as required

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 strategic and policy matters relating to the public sector and government expenditure, including significant sector infrastructure and investment proposals (e.g. defence, schools, hospitals).
- Consider matters relating to local government and emergency management.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins (Deputy Chair)

Hon David Parker

Hon Nanaia Mahuta

Hon Stuart Nash

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Jan Tinetti

Hon Michael Wood

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Meka Whaitiri

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Deborah Russell, MP

Relevant Portfolios⁴

Corrections

Defence

Digital Economy and Communications

Education

Emergency Management

Finance

Health

Infrastructure

Internal Affairs

Local Government

Revenue

State Owned Enterprises

Public Service

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

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)

Hon Andrew Little

Hon David Parker

Hon Poto Williams

Hon Michael Wood (Deputy Chair)

Hon Kiri Allan

Hon Dr David Clark

Hon Kieran McAnulty

Dr Duncan Webb, MP (Senior Government Whip)

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Timing

Meets weekly during sitting weeks

Cabinet Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti Committee (MCR)

To consider strategic and policy matters relating to Treaty of Waitangi settlement negotiations and the delivery of post-settlement commitments, the Crown's Treaty obligations, the revitalisation of te reo Māori, and opportunities that exist in the post-Treaty settlement environment.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
 Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little (Deputy Chair)
 Hon David Parker
 Hon Nanaia Mahuta
 Hon Poto Williams
 Hon Damien O'Connor
 Hon Stuart Nash
 Hon Peeni Henare
 Hon Willie Jackson
 Hon Kiri Allan
 Hon Meka Whaitiri

Relevant Portfolios⁵

Agriculture
 Attorney-General
 Conservation
 Economic and Regional Development
 Environment
 Local Government
 Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
 Māori Development
 Oceans and Fisheries
 Rural Communities
 Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
 Whānau Ora

Timing

Meets monthly, or as required

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)

To consider strategic and policy matters which support an equal, inclusive, and fair standard of living for all New Zealanders, including education, health, justice, income support, homelessness, public housing and residential tenancy issues, and the health and social impacts of COVID-19.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Hon Grant Robertson

Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Hon Chris Hipkins (Deputy Chair)

Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)

Hon Andrew Little

Hon Poto Williams

Hon Damien O'Connor

Hon Peeni Henare

Hon Willie Jackson

Hon Jan Tinetti

Hon Kiri Allan

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall

Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

Hon Aupito William Sio

Hon Meka Whaitiri

Relevant Portfolios⁶

ACC

Arts, Culture and Heritage

Child Poverty Reduction

Children

Community and Voluntary Sector

Corrections

Courts

COVID-19 Response

Disability Issues

Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities

Education

Health

Housing

Justice

Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Māori Development

Pacific Peoples

Police

Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence

Rural Communities

Seniors

Social Development and Employment

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.