



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern:

### **Proposed Overseas Travel: Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom, 26 June – 4 July 2022**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom, 26 June – 4 July 2022 (CAB-22-SUB -0236)

**Title of minute:** Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-MIN-0236 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 section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction code:**

- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Prime Minister  
Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom, 26 June – 4 July 2022**

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to visit Europe (Spain, Belgium, the United Kingdom) from 26 June to 4 July 2022.

2 The primary drivers of the Europe visit are (1) to profile New Zealand as a close, likeminded partner that is open for business, and actively reconnecting with European partners; (2) to add leader-level political impetus to the closing stages of EU-NZ FTA negotiations, with a view to announcing the 'substantive conclusion' of these negotiations with the EU Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, in Brussels; (3) to represent New Zealand as an invited partner at the NATO Summit in Madrid, where a range of key security issues for New Zealand, including the war in Ukraine and Indo-Pacific will be discussed; and (4) to strengthen New Zealand's strong relationship with the United Kingdom, and further promoting reconnection, economic and tourism links.

**Purpose of Travel**

3 My travel to Europe, if approved, would be my fourth offshore visit this year, following visits to Singapore & Japan, the United States and Australia. Europe is a key partner for New Zealand, in economic, security and people-to-people terms. At a time when New Zealand is reconnecting with the world as we start emerging from the Covid pandemic and issues in Europe such as the war in Ukraine are having implications for us, it is both timely and important to engage in-person at the leader level to progress our key interests with the region, and to raise New Zealand's profile as a close, likeminded partner that is open for business again.

4 The objectives for my Europe visit centre on three central themes – reconnection, trade and security. The first overarching theme is to support New Zealand's reconnection with the world, including promoting tourism, economic, business and people-to-people links. The second is to promote and advance New Zealand's trade and economic interests in Europe – most notably by aiming to announce 'substantive conclusion' in Brussels of New Zealand's free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations with the EU and to promote its ratification and entry

into force. The third visit theme is advancing New Zealand's security and strategic interests with like-minded European and other partners. In Madrid, I plan to represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit, where the leaders of NATO's four Asia Pacific Partners (Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the Republic of Korea) have been invited. The Summit will be a valuable opportunity to underscore and advance our shared interests both with respect to Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific. It will also be an occasion to hold in-person meetings with leaders, including to support our reconnection and EU FTA objectives.

5 For this visit to Europe, I do not propose to be accompanied by a formal business delegation, although New Zealand business and industry representatives will be invited to participate in relevant programme events in Brussels and in London. This will aim to further profile opportunities presented for New Zealand business by the EU FTA, as well as the New Zealand-UK FTA that was signed on 1 March of this year.

### **Outline of proposed visit**

6 The proposed visit begins in Madrid, Spain, which is hosting the NATO Summit (28-29 June). While in Madrid, I would participate in the NATO Partners' session on 29 June and related leader-level events. On the margins of the Summit, I plan to engage bilaterally with other leaders, and expect to meet with Secretary-General of NATO.

7 The second leg of the Europe visit is Brussels (30 June). The centrepiece of the programme is a planned meeting with the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, with a view to announcing 'substantive conclusion' of the NZ-EU FTA negotiations. While in Brussels, I plan to meet with the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, with a view to promoting the successful passage of the FTA through the European Parliament. Finally, in Brussels, I will participate in a reconnecting New Zealand and FTA-focused event, at which New Zealand business representatives and key Brussels-based European decision-makers will be invited.

8 The third and final leg of the Europe programme is in London (1-2 July). I will meet in London with Prime Minister Johnson to discuss a range of bilateral and international issues, and during which we will announce improvements and extensions to our respective working holiday schemes. Other significant elements include a Reconnecting New Zealand to London and the UK event to be held at New Zealand House; an audience with the Duke of Cambridge; a foreign policy-focused speech at the international Think Tank Chatham House; and media events.

## **Travel**

9 If the travel is approved, I will fly commercially to and within Europe, departing New Zealand on Sunday 26 June. I would complete my Europe programme in London on Saturday 2 July, and fly directly to Australia to begin a programme of visits including the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum. Approval for my travel to Australia will be sought from Ministerial Services separately. I intend to return to New Zealand on Friday 8 July.

## **Prime Ministerial Party**


10 If Cabinet approves my travel, I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, my Deputy Chief Press Secretary, my Foreign Policy Adviser from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers. Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will join as appropriate.

11 In Brussels and in London, I will be accompanied for some trade-related programme elements by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth Damien O'Connor, who has sought approval for his travel separately.

## **Estimated Costs**

12 The following is a breakdown of estimated costs to be covered by the Prime Minister's Office, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs, Members of the Executive – Travel:

s9(2)(f)(iv)



13 The costs for the DPMC and MFAT officials and New Zealand Police Protection Services officers will be a charge to their respective votes.

### **Acting Ministers**

14 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Grant Robertson is to be Acting Prime Minister, Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence, Hon Chris Hipkins act as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and that Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

15 My responsibilities as Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage will revert to the primary Minister, Hon Carmel Sepuloni.

### **Recommendations**

16 I recommend that Cabinet:

- Authorise my absence from New Zealand from 26 June to 4 July to travel to Spain, Belgium, and the United Kingdom;
- Agree that I will be accompanied by my Chief of Staff, my Deputy Chief Press Secretary, an official from DPMC, and officers from New Zealand Police Protective, with MFAT senior officials joining as appropriate;
- Note that I will also be accompanied for some trade-related elements of the programme in Brussels and London by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Hon Damien O'Connor and his adviser;
- Note that the costs of the DPMC and MFAT officials, as well as the New Zealand Police Protection Services officers, will be a charge to their respective votes;
- s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Agree that in my absence that Hon Grant Robertson is to be Acting Prime Minister, Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence, Hon Chris Hipkins act as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and that Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;

- Agree that my Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage responsibilities revert to the primary Minister.

– Authorised for lodgement –

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Proactively Released



# 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: Prime Minister

Portfolio                      Prime Minister

On 20 June 2022, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 26 June to 4 July 2022, to travel to:
  - 1.1      Madrid, Spain to represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit and hold bilateral discussions;
  - 1.2      Brussels, Belgium to meet with the President of the European Commission and President of the European Parliament;
  - 1.3      London, United Kingdom to meet with the Prime Minister and the Duke of Cambridge;
- 2        **agreed** that she be accompanied by her Chief of Staff and Deputy Chief Press Secretary;
- 3        s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- 4        **noted** that she will also be accompanied for some trade-related elements by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth and his adviser, whose travel approval has been sought separately;
- 5        **noted** that she will also be accompanied by an official from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, New Zealand Police Protective officers, and senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials will join as appropriate, with all travel costs charged to their respective Votes;
- 6        **agreed** that in her absence:
  - 6.1      Hon Grant Robertson be Acting Prime Minister;
  - 6.2      Hon Andrew Little act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
  - 6.3      Hon Chris Hipkins act as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
  - 6.4      Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Child Poverty Reduction.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet