



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister:

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister - October 2024

The following document has been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister – October 2024 (CAB-24-SUB-0367 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister – October 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0367 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 codes:

- section 6(a) to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

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Office of the Prime Minister

Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and Rt Hon Winston Peters – October 2024

- 1 We seek Cabinet approval to undertake official travel to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa. The Prime Minister will travel from 24 to 26 October 2024 (inclusive) and the Deputy Prime Minister will travel from 25 to 26 October 2024 (inclusive).

Purpose of travel

- 2 The purpose of this travel is to attend at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Apia, Samoa.
- 3 New Zealand is a founding member of the Commonwealth of Nations. The Commonwealth provides New Zealand with opportunities to support good governance, democratic norms, and human rights across the membership and to advocate for the interests of small states (particularly Small Island Developing States) given 33 of the world's 42 'small states' are Commonwealth members.
- 4 The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is a biennial summit convening leaders of Commonwealth nations and the Head of the Commonwealth, His Majesty King Charles III. It is the most important meeting on the Commonwealth agenda. This will be King Charles' first Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting as Monarch and the first time that it will be hosted by a Pacific Small Island Developing State.
- 5 This meeting of Leaders is intended to facilitate discussion and decision-making at the highest level on issues of relevance to the shared values and interests of Commonwealth members. Decisions and calls to action will be captured in a Leaders' communique. The election of the new Commonwealth Secretary-General (to replace Secretary-General Baroness Scotland whose term will end this year) will also be on the agenda for this year's meeting.
- 6 An additional relevance of the Commonwealth is its convening power, which provides New Zealand with access to a network of countries with which we do not ordinarily have the opportunity to engage closely. Attending the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting would also provide opportunities to build on priority relationships with India and South East Asian Commonwealth countries.
- 7 Samoa's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 2024 presents unique opportunities and outcomes for New Zealand. By hosting,

Samoa is promoting Pacific perspectives and raising the profile of the issues that matter to our region and to the broader Commonwealth.

- 8 The objectives for our attendance at CHOGM are:
- 8.1 to support Samoa to host a successful meeting and demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to work on the global stage to address the issues that matter to the Pacific;
 - 8.2 To support an institution committed to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights; and
 - 8.3 Using the Commonwealth's convening power, undertake bilateral engagements with countries that we have fewer opportunities to meet with (e.g. Africa, the Caribbean).
- 9 The Prime Minister expects to undertake the following key engagements:
- 9.1 The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Leaders formal programme; and
 - 9.2 A range of bilateral meetings and an audience with King Charles III.
- 10 The Deputy Prime Minister expects to undertake the following key engagements:
- 10.1 The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting Foreign Ministers formal programme; and
 - 10.2 Bilateral meetings with s 6(a)
- 11 The programmes will also include engagements with the deployment of New Zealand personnel in support of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

Prime Ministerial and Ministerial party

- 12 The Prime Minister will be accompanied by his spouse, and three members of his office. The Deputy Prime Minister will be accompanied by his Senior Specialist Adviser. Their costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 13 The Prime Minister will be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Services staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.
- 14 Accompanying officials will be from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Foreign Policy Adviser) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Department and the Ministry respectively. In addition, members of the New Zealand media will be invited to accompany the Prime Minister at their own cost.

- 15 Spouses of Leaders have been invited to attend so that they can take part in the Spousal Programme. Mrs Luxon’s attendance would not have financial implications as there will be no additional travel or accommodation costs (subject to contingency flights not being required and utilised).
- 16 The Prime Minister’s delegation would depart for Samoa on 24 October via NZDF Boeing 757, so it is not included in the below cost estimates. The Deputy Prime Minister would depart for Samoa on 25 October via a commercial Air New Zealand flight. Both the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister would then return to New Zealand on 26 October via the same asset.

Travel costs

17 The estimated combined total cost for both delegations is s 9(2)(f)(iv) .

18 The estimated cost for the Prime Minister’s delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Contingency flights	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
Accommodation	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Hospitality / Representation (split 50:50 with MFAT)	
Gifts for up to 6 bilateral meetings	
Subtotal	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	
Overall travel total	

The estimated cost for the Deputy Prime Minister’s delegation is:

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Air New Zealand flight from Auckland to Faleolo, Samoa (DPM and Specialist Ministerial Adviser) s 9(2)(f)(iv)	s 9(2)(f)(iv)
Contingency return flights	
Accommodation (including a room for bilaterals)	
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications	
Gifts for up to 3 bilateral meetings	
Subtotal	
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>	

ITEM	COST (NZD)
Overall travel total	s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Acting Ministers

- 19 In the Prime Minister's absence, Hon Nicola Willis will act as the Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services and Minister for National Security and Intelligence.
- 20 If travel is approved, Hon Dr Shane Reti would cover the Deputy Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs portfolio and Hon Andrew Bayly would cover the Deputy Prime Minister's Racing portfolio in his absence.

Proactive release

- 21 This Cabinet paper would be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 22 The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister recommend that Cabinet:
- 22.1 Authorise the Prime Minister's and Deputy Prime Minister's absence from New Zealand from 24-26 and from 25-26 October respectively, to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Samoa.
- 22.2 Agree that they be accompanied by three and one Ministerial staff members respectively, and that the Prime Minister be accompanied by his spouse.
- 22.3 Approve the estimated expenditure of s 9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of both delegations as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 22.4 Note that they will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Department and Ministry respectively.
- 22.5 Note that they will be accompanied by a media delegation, whose costs will be met by the travelling media.
- 22.6 Agree that in their absence:
- 22.6.1 Hon Nicola Willis will act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Minister for National Security Intelligence;

22.6.2 Hon Dr Shane Reti will act as Minister of Foreign Affairs; and

22.6.3 Hon Andrew Bayly will act as Minister for Racing.

23 Note that the House is sitting during the Prime Minister's absence on Thursday 24 October.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister

Rt Hon Winston Peters

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs

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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 and Deputy Prime Minister - October 2024

Portfolios **Prime Minister / Foreign Affairs**

On 23 September 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the Prime Minister's absence from New Zealand from 24 to 26 October 2024 and the absence of the Deputy Prime Minister from New Zealand from 25 to 26 October 2024, to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Samoa, and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that:
 - 2.1 the Prime Minister be accompanied by his wife and three staff members;
 - 2.2 the Deputy Prime Minister be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s 9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of both ministerial parties as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that they will also be accompanied by:
 - 4.1 officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their agencies;
 - 4.2 a media delegation, whose costs will be met personally;
- 5 **noted** that the Prime Minister's delegation is expected to travel to Samoa on a New Zealand Defence Force aircraft;
- 6 **agreed** that in their absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Nicola Willis act as Prime Minister, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
 - 6.2 Hon Dr Shane Reti act as Minister of Foreign Affairs;
 - 6.3 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister for Racing;

7 **noted** that the House is sitting during the Prime Minister's absence on 24 October 2024.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

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