



Proactive Release

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

Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister – January 2025

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 14-17 January 2025 (CAB-24-SUB-0515 refers)

Title of minute: Proposed Overseas Travel: Prime Minister - January 2025 (CAB-24-MIN-0515 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.

Office of the Prime Minister
Chair, Cabinet


Proposed Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, 14–17 January 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 14–17 January 2025.

Purpose of travel

- 2 The purpose of this travel is:
 - 2.1 to oversee signature of the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT);
 - 2.2 to demonstrate the value New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship with our closest partner in the Gulf by engaging with the UAE President and other leaders; and,
 - 2.3 to use our presence to leverage New Zealand's trade and economic relations with the Middle East's most dynamic and internationalised economy, in particular to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) including to New Zealand's renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.

Outline of proposed visit

- 3 I intend to undertake or seek the following key engagements in the UAE:
 - 3.1 Oversee signature of the UAE-NZ CEPA and BIT by Hon Todd McClay and his UAE counterparts, alongside UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan;
 - 3.2 Deliver an address to the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week conference;
 - 3.3 Meet bilaterally with UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohamed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, and a suite of other senior Emirati political, business, and investment leaders;
 - 3.4 Visit Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Dubai Museum of the Future, and the *Wahat Al Karama* (Oasis of Dignity) National War Memorial;
 - 3.5 s6(a) 
 - 3.6 Engage with local media; and
 - 3.7 Attend a business reception with New Zealand exporters active in the UAE market and local UAE companies.

Prime Ministerial party

- 4 I will be accompanied by two members of staff from my office. Our costs will be met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 5 I will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be covered by their respective agencies.
- 6 I will also be accompanied by New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose costs will be met by Vote Police.

Travel costs

- 7 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.

Flights	s9(2)(f)(iv)	
Accommodation		
Meals and other expenses, including incidentals and telecommunications		
Hospitality and events		
Gifts		
Subtotal		
<i>Contingency (5%)</i>		
Total		

Acting Ministers

- 8 If travel is approved, I propose that Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Acting Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence.

Proactive release

- 9 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (23) 04 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 10 This paper recommends that Cabinet:
- 10.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 14 to 17 January 2024 to travel to the United Arab Emirates;
- 10.2 agree that I be accompanied by two members of my office;

- 10.3 approve the estimated expenditure of s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 10.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose travel costs will be met by respective agencies;
- 10.5 agree that in my absence:
- 10.5.1 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Acting Prime Minister and as Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, and Hon Judith Collins act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 10.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister



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 - January 2025

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 16 December 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of the Prime Minister from New Zealand, from 14 to 17 January 2025, to travel to the United Arab Emirates to oversee the signing of the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to s9(2)(f)(iv) for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and New Zealand Police Dignitary Protection Service staff, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Prime Minister and Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services;
 - 5.2 Hon Judith Collins KC act as Minister for National Security and Intelligence;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet