



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Michael Wood	<b>Portfolio</b>	Workplace Relations and Safety
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood	<b>Date to be published</b>	11 July 2022

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
April 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood	Office of the Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety
4 April 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood CAB-22-MIN-0106 Minute	Cabinet Office

### **Information redacted**

**YES / NO** [select one]

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Chair, Cabinet

## **PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: HON MICHAEL WOOD: TRAVEL TO NORWAY, SWITZERLAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, 11-19 JUNE 2022**

### **Proposal**

1. I seek the approval of Cabinet for my absence from New Zealand to travel to Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom from 11-19 June 2022.
2. The Prime Minister's approval in principle has been given and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

3. The purpose of my travel is to attend and represent New Zealand at the International Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS) in Oslo, Norway over 13-14 June, then at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland on 15 June. Whilst in London, England over 16-17 June, I intend to seek portfolio-relevant engagements with UK transport, health and safety, and workplace relations ministers and agencies before returning to New Zealand
4. The EVS is the most important global meeting place for the electric vehicle industry, gathering policymakers, industry representatives, relevant research communities and NGOs. Attendees will include policymakers such as US Transport Secretary Pete Buttigieg and European Commission Vice-President, Maroš Šefčovič, business leaders from the charging and battery industries, as well as top leaders from electric car manufacturers.
5. Conference organisers have recognised New Zealand's leading role regionally regarding zero emission transportation, both on the road and at sea, and wish to learn of our experiences in implementing new electric vehicle policies and electrifying mobility. I propose to speak at the Conference, highlighting our policies to reduce emissions and encourage the take-up of electric vehicles, as well as engaging with electric vehicle, charging and battery makers there to encourage them to supply more of their products to our market.
6. The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the peak global body for discussion of workplace relations policy issues and the development of international labour standards on topics of portfolio concern such as modern slavery, the promotion of collective bargaining and social dialogue. It provides an important and expert forum to engage with

on New Zealand's achievements and priorities in the workplace relations portfolio, particularly around collective bargaining and responding to the challenges of ensuring labour rights are accessible to all in a rapidly changing world of work.

## **Programme**

7. I propose to depart New Zealand for Oslo on Saturday 11 June and arrive back in New Zealand on Sunday 19 June. I note that the period of my travel is set down as a Parliamentary recess week.
8. During my time in Oslo over 13-14 June, I intend to speak at the EVS Conference to highlight our policies to reduce emissions and encourage the take-up of electric vehicles, as well as engaging with electric vehicle, charging and battery makers there to encourage them to supply more of their products to our market. This is in line with the Government's aim [CPC-22-MIN-008 refers] of ensuring New Zealand can build a clean vehicle fleet into the future, by gaining greater access to the low- and zero-emission light vehicle import market for New Zealand. Whilst in Oslo I will also pursue engagements with Norwegian transport and health and safety officials. In 2019, Oslo recorded zero pedestrian and cyclist deaths, and exploring how this was achieved is directly relevant to our own ambitions in this area.
9. In Geneva, on 15 June, I intend to hold bilateral meetings with key ILO officials including the current Director-General, Guy Ryder and the Director-General elect (elections for a new Director-General took place on 25 March), the Deputy Director General, the Director of International Labour Standards, the Asia-Pacific Regional Director, and the General Secretary of the International Trade Union Congress. Whilst in Geneva I will also call on the Global Road Safety Partnership for discussions on their safety campaigns and programmes and their applicability to New Zealand.
10. Following my engagements in Europe, I intend to travel to London over 16-17 June *en route* back to New Zealand and make calls relevant to my Workplace Relations and Safety and Transport portfolios. I will be seeking engagements with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and the Low Pay Commission, to discuss labour reform initiatives, including work underway on institutional arrangements for our proposed Fair Pay Agreement system, contractors' rights, and considerations around adopting a more tripartite decision-making process for the minimum wage. I will also seek discussions with UK Health and Safety authorities, and relevant officials from the Home Office on their work to end modern slavery and migrant exploitation, given work currently underway to develop Modern Slavery legislation in New Zealand.
11. In terms of my Transport portfolio, I intend to hold bilateral discussions with the UK Secretary of State for Transport, and officials from the Department of Transport regarding their Transport Decarbonisation Plan and on improving urban transport networks, public transport and the greening of the transport fleet. I also intend to call on Crossrail – the ambitious railway construction project underway in central London – to gain insights relevant to our own proposals to improve urban transport in Auckland and other centres.

## **Ministerial Party**

12. I propose that my Ministerial Advisor accompany me on this travel, with costs met by Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel]. Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will support me in Geneva, at a cost to the Ministry. I expect that officials from the Ministry of Transport may also support me in London and Oslo and they will have their costs met by their Ministry.

## Travel Costs

13. The estimated cost for this travel is \$54,600 (GST incl.) and will be charged to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel].

Category	\$
Flights (x2)	32,000
Accommodation (x2)	8,000
Ground transport and facilitation	3,000
Per diems(x2)	2,200
Representation	1,500
Gifts	500
COVID tests (x2)	1,800
Contingency	5,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,600</b>

## Acting Ministers

14. I propose that for the period of my absence overseas:

- Hon Andrew Little will act as Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
- Hon James Shaw will act as Minister of Transport
- Hon Kiritapu Allan will act as Deputy Leader of the House

## Proactive release

15. I propose to release this Cabinet paper proactively in line with normal Cabinet guidelines.

## Recommendations

16. I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 11 June to 19 June 2022 to travel to Oslo, Geneva and London to attend and represent New Zealand at the International Electric Vehicle Symposium & Exhibition (EVS), and at the International Labour Organisation in Geneva, Switzerland;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff, my Ministerial Advisor;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$54,600 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Transport whose travel costs will met by each department;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:

- 1.5.1 Hon Andrew Little will act as Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety;
- 1.5.2 Hon James Shaw will act as Minister of Transport;
- 1.5.3 Hon Kiritapu Allan will act as Deputy Leader of the House
- 1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence;
- 1.7 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Michael Wood  
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety