



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Stuart Nash	Portfolio	Small Business
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Stuart Nash	Date to be published	6 December 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
October 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Stuart Nash	Office of the Minister for Small Business
25 October 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Stuart Nash CAB-22-MIN-0459 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Small Business

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Stuart Nash

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to attend the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) meetings in Paris, France, over the period 21 November to 24 November 2022.
- 2 I intend to depart New Zealand on Sunday, 20 November and return to New Zealand on Saturday, 26 November 2022.
- 3 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 4 The OECD is an international organisation in which governments work together to find solutions to common challenges, develop global standards, share experiences and identify best practices to promote better policies for better lives.
- 5 In November, Ministers' from OCED member countries will travel to Paris to attend Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) meetings consisting of:
 - 5.1 The Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) Forum;
 - 5.2 The Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum;
 - 5.3 The Digital for SMEs (D4SME) Steering Group; and
 - 5.4 4th Roundtable of the OECD (D4SME) Global Initiative meeting.
- 6 As Chair of the OECD Digital for SMEs Working Group, and champion of the SME digitisation agenda. I have been actively engaging with the Committee pre-during-and-post COVID-19 to advance the importance of mental health, wellbeing and inclusivity to SME digitalisation.
- 7 New Zealand's proposal that the new OECD Committee hold an SME Ministerial Meeting in 2023 recently went through the OECD Executive Council with widespread support. This meeting has put the spotlight on New Zealand's ambition for SMEs and their role in transforming economies. As the country leading this work, member countries have been approaching New Zealand on the OECD's future work on SMEs and entrepreneurship.

- 8 New Zealand's involvement on small business matters in the OECD and APEC has significantly raised New Zealand's standing as a country that prioritises the importance of small businesses.

Benefits for New Zealand

- 9 The Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum will discuss approaches for green innovation and the role that low-carbon hydrogen and the bio-economy sectors could play in a sustainable recovery. It will discuss the specific challenges and opportunities faced by SMEs, and the lessons learnt from the international scientific co-operation in response to the COVID- 19 pandemic.
- 10 The OECD is uniquely placed to provide its members with the policy analysis and advice necessary to help SMEs contribute to the post-COVID recovery. Many OECD nations have programmes designed to support SMEs. New Zealand has a lot to offer, and a lot to learn, from its OECD counterparts on the role of SMEs in moving to a sustainable and inclusive economy.
- 11 As we reconnect to the world, engagement with other OECD countries will be critical to the future of New Zealand's post-COVID-19 growth. The policies we put in place to achieve that will benefit from the analysis and experience that only an OECD SME committee can provide.

Meetings and Events

- 12 Subject to Cabinet approval, I intend to:
- 12.1 Announce that the inaugural CSMEE Ministerial Meeting will be held in June 2023 at the 3rd Committee on Small and Medium Enterprises and Entrepreneurship (CSMEE) meeting.
 - 12.2 Deliver the key note address at the Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum.
 - 12.3 Chair the Digital for SMEs (D4SME) Steering Group meeting.
 - 12.4 Chair the 4th Roundtable of the OECD (D4SME) Global Initiative meeting.
- 13 In addition, there will also be opportunities to engage with my counterparts from OCED member countries. In doing so this will advance the Government's priorities in areas of Economic Development, Small Business and Tourism.

Ministerial Party

- 14 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will attend; their travel costs will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

15 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$ 37,280.00
Accommodation:	\$ 2,700.00
Facilitation	\$ 2000.00
Other expenses <i>meals, hospitality gifts</i>	\$ 700.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 4,268.00
Total: \$	\$ 46, 948.00

Acting Ministers

16 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Economic and Regional Development: Hon. David

Parker Forestry: Hon. Damien O'Connor

Small Business: Hon. David Clark

Tourism: Hon. Poto Williams

Proactive release

17 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Business and Innovations website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 20 November to 26 November to travel to Paris, France to participate in a series of OECD forums;
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$46,948.00 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 whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:

- 1.5.1 Hon. David Parker act as Minister for Economic and Regional Development;
 - 1.5.2 Hon. Damien O'Connor act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 1.5.3 Hon. David Clark act as Minister for Small Business; and
 - 1.5.4 Hon. Poto Williams act as Minister of Tourism.
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Stuart Nash

Minister for Small Business