



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Michael Wood	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Extending the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa	<b>Date to be published</b>	5 July 2023

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
February 2023	Extending the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa	Office of the Minister of Immigration
22 February 2023	Extending the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa DEV-23-MIN-0010 Minute	Cabinet Office
27 February 2023	Extending the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa CAB-23-MIN-0049 Minute	Cabinet Office

### **Information redacted**

**YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's and MFAT'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.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of international relations, privacy of natural persons, confidential advice to Government, free and frank opinions, and out of scope.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Extending the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa

Portfolio                      Immigration

On 22 February 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in March 2022, as part of the immigration response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Cabinet agreed to establish the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy to enable Ukrainian New Zealanders to sponsor their parent, grandparent, adult sibling, or adult child, and their immediate family (partner and any dependent children) to come to New Zealand and shelter here for two years [CAB-22-MIN-0069];
- 2        **noted** that Cabinet agreed the policy would remain open for 12 months, so without further decisions the policy will close for expressions of interest on 15 March 2023;
- 3        **noted** that the war in Ukraine appears unlikely to abate in the foreseeable future and take-up of the policy has been lower than initial estimates;
- 4        **agreed** that the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy is extended for 12 months to 15 March 2024;
- 5        **noted** that Special Visa holders have nine months to travel to New Zealand, but due to challenges in travelling from Ukraine and the ongoing informal conscription process this is proving an insufficient amount of time for many visa holders;
- 6        **agreed** to change the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa conditions to allow a period of 12 months to travel to New Zealand for future visa grants;
- 7        **noted** that advocates have identified several barriers to access of the policy and requested a number of changes and expansions to the policy;
- 8        **noted** that sponsors under the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa must have born in Ukraine, or hold/did hold Ukrainian citizenship or be a permanent resident of Ukraine, and this means some second and third generation Ukrainians are unable to sponsor their family members;
- 9        **agreed** that the criteria outlined in paragraph 8 be expanded to include those who either themselves, their parent, or their grandparent have been born in Ukraine, or hold/did hold Ukrainian citizenship or be a permanent resident of Ukraine;
- 10      **noted** that currently eligible sponsors can sponsor their parents, grandparents, adult children, siblings and their immediate family (partner and any dependent children) and that family members outside of this can be considered by Delegated Decision Makers on a case-by-case basis;

- 11 **agreed** to expand the policy to other adult family members of the New Zealand sponsor who have lived with the family unit (either the sponsor or the eligible close relative of the sponsor), for a substantial time, with 'other adult family members' being defined as adult aunts, uncles, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, first cousins, and step-siblings (and their partners and dependent children);
- 12 **noted** that the cost of sponsorship has been identified as a key barrier to uptake of the policy;
- 13 **agreed** to allow a third party who is an acceptable sponsor to take on the sponsorship obligations so long as there is still a 'nominating family member' who meets the Ukrainian and New Zealand residency requirements;
- 14 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will certify new immigration instructions under Section 22 of the Immigration Act 2009 to give effect to the decisions in paragraphs 4, 6, 9, 11 and 13;
- 15 **agreed** that the Minister of Immigration make announcements on the decisions made in paragraphs 4, 6, 9, 11 and 13 as soon as possible to give visa holders certainty;
- 16 **Confidential advice to Government**
- 17 **International relations**
- 18 **noted** that information provided to applicants for the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy will be updated to provide more information on the health requirement to increase awareness;
- 19 **Confidential advice to Government**

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Hon Ginny Andersen  
Hon Rino Tirikatene  
Hon Dr Deborah Russell  
Jo Luxton MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV