



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Michael Wood	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood (11-16 September 2022 to Washington DC, USA)	Date to be published	24 July 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
August 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood	Office of the Minister of Immigration
15 August 2022	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood CAB-22-MIN-0328 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO [select one]

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 Immigration
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Michael Wood

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Washington DC, USA from Sunday 11 September to Friday 16 September to attend the Five Country Ministerial meeting.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The Five Country Ministerial (commonly known as the FCM) is an annual meeting of Ministers from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, representing home affairs, public safety, interior, security, border and immigration portfolios, with a focus on policy and operational cooperation and coordination. Ministers meet to discuss national security challenges of mutual interest and concern and to discuss opportunities for collaboration.
- 4 The scope of FCM meetings is broad, covering topics ranging from border/migration security, foreign interference, cybersecurity and counter-terrorism, to countering child exploitation and online harm. For New Zealand, the Minister of Immigration (on delegation from the Prime Minister) attends on behalf of all portfolios. New Zealand was Chair of the FCM over 2020-21 but was unable to host an in-person meeting due to the Covid-19 border measures. The US meeting will be the first in-person FCM since 2019.
- 5 The agenda for this year's meeting is currently under development, but there will be a focus on crisis management, from new and emerging (such as responses to situations like Ukraine or Afghanistan to chronic crises (such as foreign interference or cyber security) and the resulting impact on national security and international migration. Concept Notes on each of the discussion topics are currently being refined and provide the Ministers with the basis for a full discussion, including suggested deliverables for ongoing activity. A communiqué will be publicly issued at the conclusion of the meeting.
- 6 In addition to the main FCM, there will be opportunities for bilateral meetings with the other Ministers attending, including the Australian Minister of Home Affairs, the Canadian Minister of Immigration, the US Secretary of Homeland Security and the UK Home Secretary.
- 7 Following the FCM, I intend to visit the National Targeting Centre (NTC), an operations centre run by US Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) to screen passengers and cargo for criminality, national security or border risks. Attached to the NTC is an International Targeting Centre (ITC) which uses information from the Five Countries to target and share information in real time. The ITC is currently managed by an officer from the New Zealand Customs Service.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I will be accompanied by my Press Secretary, Travis Mills.
- 9 I will also be accompanied by Alison McDonald, Head of Immigration New Zealand, Megan Ellis, Manager International Strategy for Immigration New Zealand and Pip Swaney, Manager, Security and Intelligence Policy, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The travel costs of officials will be met by their respective departments.

Travel Costs

- 10 List the estimated costs of the travel for myself and my press secretary are:

Airfares:	\$36,000
Accommodation:	\$ 3,000
Contingency (5%)	\$ 4,000
Transport	\$ 2,000
Total:	\$45,000

Acting Ministers

- 11 The following acting Ministers have been arranged during this time:
- 11.1 Hon Priyanka Radhakrishnan – for Workplace Relations & Safety
- 11.2 Hon Kieran McAnulty – for Transport
- 11.3 Hon Phil Twyford – for Immigration (or in the case that Hon Twyford will also be travelling, Hon David Parker)

Proactive release

- 12 I propose to release this paper proactively. Any redactions made will be consistent with the *Official Information Act 1982*.

Recommendations

- 13 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1 **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured (if the House is sitting), from 11 September to 16 September to travel to Washington DC, USA to attend the Five Country Ministerial meeting.
 - 2 **Agree** that I be accompanied by one member of staff.
 - 3 **Approve** the estimated expenditure of \$45,000 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel].
 - 4 **Note** that I will be accompanied by officials from Immigration New Zealand and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and travel costs will be borne by their respective departments.
 - 5 **Agree** that in my absence the following Ministers will act:

- 5.1 Hon Priyanka Radhakrishnan – for Workplace Relations & Safety
- 5.2 Hon Kieran McAnulty – for Transport
- 5.3 Hon Phil Twyford – for Immigration (or in the case that Hon Twyford will also be travelling, Hon David Parker)

6 **Note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Michael Wood
Minister of Immigration