



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Andrew Little	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Future of the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy	<b>Date to be published</b>	By 2 October 2023

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
August 2023	Future of the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 August 2023	Future of the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy DEV-23-MIN-0170 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 free and frank opinions, confidential advice to government, and international relations.



# 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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### Future of the 2022 Special Ukraine Policy

**Portfolio**                      **Immigration**

On 16 August 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

#### Background

- 1        **noted** that on 14 March 2022, as part of the immigration response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Cabinet agreed to establish the 2022 Special Ukraine Visa (SUV) 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 on 22 February 2023, DEV agreed to extend the policy by 12 months to 15 March 2024, and to moderately expand who could sponsor and be sponsored under the policy [DEV-23-MIN-0010];
- 3        **noted** that the Minister of Immigration was invited to report back to DEV if it is judged necessary to develop a facilitated residence category for people who remain in New Zealand [DEV-23-MIN-0010];

#### 2022 Special Ukraine Policy

- 4        **noted** that the SUV was intended to be a temporary policy, not an enduring humanitarian pathway to New Zealand;
- 5        **noted** that, as previously agreed by Cabinet, the SUV will close to those who have not previously submitted an expression of interest from 15 March 2024;
- 6        **noted** that the ability for onshore SUV holders to apply for a subsequent SUV will allow time for residence applications to be processed before visas begin expiring;
- 7        **agreed** that existing SUV holders in New Zealand can continue to access the Special Ukraine Policy for a subsequent SUV;
- 8        **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make decisions on when to close the SUV to subsequent onshore applications;

#### Residence pathway for 2022 Special Ukraine Visa holders

- 9        **noted** that many SUV holders have now settled with their families in New Zealand;

- 10 **agreed** to establish a new residence category for 2022 SUV holders;
- 11 **agreed** that in order to be eligible for this residence category, principal applicants must have arrived in New Zealand by 15 March 2024;
- 12 **agreed** that Limited Medical Certificates will be required, and that an applicant would only be declined if they had one of the non-waiver medical conditions listed in Immigration Instructions;
- 13 **agreed** that normal immigration character and identity requirements will apply, including police certificates, but that certificates can be waived where there is an inability for the applicant to provide the required information;
- 14 **agreed** that a fee of \$1,200 be charged for the visa application through the ‘residence class visa application—any other residence category fee’, outlined in the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulation 2010;
- 15 **agreed** that no immigration levy will be charged to applicants;
- 16 **noted** that based on current numbers, around 1,500 people could be eligible for residence;
- 17 **noted** that establishing a residence pathway will have fiscal costs for the government over time for the provision of services across education and welfare, which will be absorbed within existing baselines;
- 18 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make further decisions on the design of the residence pathway;
- 19 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will certify amendments to Immigration Instructions in line with the decisions taken in relation to the paper under DEV-23-SUB-0170;
- 20 **agreed** that the Minister of Immigration will make announcements on the above decisions as soon as possible, to give visa holders certainty.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Damien O’Connor  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon David Parker (Chair)  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Hon Ginny Andersen  
Hon Dr Deborah Russell  
Hon Rachel Brooking  
Hon Jo Luxton

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV