



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Judith Collins KC MP	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology Defence
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC MP – 21 to 27 April 2024	Date to be published	1 July 2024

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
April 2024	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC MP – 21 to 27 April 2024	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
18 March 2024	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC MP – 21 to 27 April 2024 CAB-24-MIN-0103 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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.

RESTRICTED

Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Minister of Defence
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC MP – April 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Paris and Le Quesnoy, France and Flanders and Brussels, Belgium from 21 – 27 April 2024 to attend the OECD Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting and Anzac Day ceremonies in Flanders.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle. The House is not sitting during my proposed travel period.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my travel to Paris is to attend the OECD Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting. This meeting is organised by the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy, which is focussed on ensuring that Science, Innovation and Technology (SI&T) systems are capable of delivering sustainable economic growth, supporting the adoption of emerging technologies, and enabling cooperation in a time of geopolitical competition.
- 4 The Ministerial Meeting aims to deliver a Joint Declaration renewing commitment to SI&T collaboration on global challenges, which will be supported by a policy framework on the governance of emerging technologies, transformative SI&T technologies, and careers for researchers.
- 5 Twenty-one of my OECD counterpart Ministers or Heads of Delegation have confirmed their attendance at this meeting. I intend to seek bilateral engagements with the science Ministers or Heads of Delegation from Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States of America in the margins of the OECD meeting. I will use these meetings to assert New Zealand's continued support for our bilateral research relationships with other countries, and to highlight the success coming from our recent association to Horizon Europe, the European Union's flagship programme for research and innovation.
- 6 Attending this event will provide a boost to New Zealand's diplomatic and scientific relationship with OECD countries, demonstrating that we are a part of a democratic and rules-based system that endorses mutually beneficial, ethically-based international research collaboration. New Zealand is a small country, and we need to partner with other countries in the scientific, innovative and technological spaces in order to address key global challenges such as climate change, economic growth and emerging technologies.

- 7 While in Paris, I also intend to seek a bilateral meeting with my French counterpart, Minister of the Armed Forces, Sébastien Lecornu to discuss a range of bilateral defence issues, particularly regarding the Pacific.
- 8 After the OECD Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting, I intend to travel to Flanders, Belgium to attend Anzac commemorations on 25 April. I intend to represent the New Zealand Government at a number of locally-arranged commemoration events through the course of the day, including at Passchendaele and Ieper (Ypres), and I intend to make an informal visit to the New Zealand Liberation Museum, Te Arawhata, in the town of Le Quesnoy in northern France.
- 9 Pending Cabinet approval, I plan to depart New Zealand for Paris on Sunday 21 April 2024 and arrive in New Zealand from Brussels on Saturday 27 April 2024.

Ministerial Party

- 10 I propose to travel with two staff members from my office, whose travel will be funded by Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel) and the New Zealand Defence Force.
- 11 I will be accompanied by one Brussels-based official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. His costs would be met from departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 12 Indicative travel costs for my travel are:

Airfares:	\$40,080
Accommodation, meals, domestic transport:	\$12,335
Contingency (10%):	\$5,000
Total: \$ (rounded up to nearest \$):	\$57,415

- 13 Where possible, and particularly in Paris, my domestic travel will be carried out at no cost using Embassy vehicles. There are costs associated with my travel between Flanders, Le Quesnoy and Brussels on 25 April as the Embassy vehicle is unavailable on that day. These costs are included in the budget in this paper.

Acting Ministers

- 14 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

Attorney-General: Hon Chris Penk

Defence: Hon Chris Penk

Digitising Government: Hon Melissa Lee

GCSB: Hon Andrew Bayly

NZSIS: Hon Andrew Bayly

Science, Innovation and Technology: Hon Todd McClay

Space: Hon Simon Watts

Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques: Hon Chris Penk

Proactive release

- 15 I propose to proactively release this Cabinet paper on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from Sunday 21 April 2024 to Saturday 27 April 2024 to travel to Paris and Le Quesnoy, France and Flanders and Brussels, Belgium to attend the OECD Science and Technology Ministerial Meeting and Anzac Day Commemorations.
 - 1.2 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom will be funded from Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel] and the other funded from the New Zealand Defence Force.
 - 1.3 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$57,415 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 a Brussels-based official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment whose travel costs will be met from departmental budgets.
 - 1.5 **agree** that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Chris Penk will be Acting Attorney General
 - 1.5.2 Hon Chris Penk will be Acting Minister of Defence
 - 1.5.3 Hon Melissa Lee will be Acting Minister for Digitising Government
 - 1.5.4 Hon Andrew Bayly will be Acting Minister Responsible for the GCSB

- 1.5.5 Hon Andrew Bayly will be Acting Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
- 1.5.6 Hon Todd McClay will be Acting Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
- 1.5.7 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister for Space
- 1.5.8 Hon Chris Penk will be Acting Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

1.6 **note** that the House is not sitting during my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC MP

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology

Minister of Defence