

# PROACTIVE RELEASE COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	<b>Portfolio</b>	Workplace Relations and Safety
<b>Title of Cabinet Paper</b>	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	<b>Date to be published</b>	By 30 August 2019

## List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
22 July 2019	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
22 July 2019	CAB-19-MIN-0345	Cabinet Office

## Information redacted

**YES / NO** *(please select)*

Any information redacted in this document 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.

Office of the Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety  
Chair, Cabinet

## **Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Iain Lees-Galloway**

### **108th Session of the International Labour Conference and International Labour Organisation Centenary**

1. On 17-19 June 2019 I travelled to Geneva, Switzerland to participate in the International Labour Conference's Centenary Proceedings along with a series of bilateral meetings.

### **2019 International Labour Conference**

2. The 2019 International Labour Conference marked the 100th year of the ILO's founding and was a visible and significant event, attracting over 7000 attendees from the ILO's 187 member States, including high-level attendees such as German Chancellor Merkel, Russian President Medvedev, French President Macron and UK Prime Minister May. The Conference ran from 10-21 June and had the dual focus of crafting a Centenary Declaration on the role of the International Labour Organisation ('the ILO') in its second century in dealing with the challenges posed by the future of work, and the development and adoption of a new International Labour Standard on preventing and addressing violence and harassment in the World of Work.
3. I attended the Conference over 17-19 June supplementing the tripartite delegation (representatives of the Government, business and workers) already attending the event. I was accompanied by officials and my Ministerial Advisor. Marja Lubeck, MP, also attended the Conference to familiarise herself with the ILO and its processes.
4. I delivered an statement to the Conference plenary session outlining key aspects of reforms underway in the workplace relations portfolio, with a strong emphasis on wellbeing, workplace health and safety (including mental health) the reform of collective bargaining arrangements and moves to combat migrant exploitation. As part of my address, I announced New Zealand's intention to ratify the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention [CAB-19-MIN-0240 refers].

### **Meetings with International Labour Organisation Officers and key players**

5. I met with ILO Director-General Guy Ryder; Deputy Director-General for Management and Reform Greg Vines, Deputy Director General for Policy Deborah Greenfield, and Director of International Labour Standards, Corrine Vargha. The ability to secure a call on Director General Ryder in the midst of the Centenary proceedings and competing calls by other Heads of State demonstrated the regard in which New Zealand is held by the ILO.
6. The Director-General and others were complimentary of New Zealand's contributions to the ILO across its tripartite structure. The Director-General expressed his intention to visit New Zealand later in 2019.

7. I had a useful discussion with Standards Director Vargha and standards expert Karen Curtis regarding New Zealand policy and legislative settings for collective bargaining. I met Asia-Pacific Regional Director Tomoko Nishimoto to discuss the resourcing and priorities of the ILO's representation in the Asia-Pacific region.
8. I also met a number of other key players within the ILO system, including Sharan Burrow, General Secretary of the International Confederation of Trade Unions (ITUC); Erol Kiresepi, President of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) (and IOE Secretary-General Roberto Suarez Santos), and Deborah France Massin of the Employer Bureau of the ILO (ACTEMP). The meetings provided useful insights into the functioning of the ILO and the challenges it faces.

### **Other bilateral meetings**

9. I undertook a schedule of bilateral meeting with counterparts from Australia (Minister Cash), Chile (Labor Undersecretary Arib), Canada (Deputy Minister Maheu) and the Cook Islands (Minister Mokaroa). These discussions were policy focussed on various aspects of our respective portfolios.
10. Along with the Ministerial bilaterals, I met with Jooste Korte, EU Director General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, to discuss the current EU-NZ FTA negotiations in the context of labour rights
11. As Minister of Immigration, I also met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Assistant High Commissioner for Protection Volker Turk).
12. These meetings were useful and productive. I would be happy to provide detail on any of these.

### **Proactive Release**

13. I propose to proactively release this paper within 30 business days. This release will be subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

### **Recommendations**

The Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety recommends that Cabinet:

14. **Note** the contents of this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety