



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
(CAB-19-SUB-0078 refers)***

***Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister
(CAB-19-MIN-0078 refers)***

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b): to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government, or by any international organisation;
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information; and
- 9(2)(g)(i): to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Office of the Prime Minister

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to London, UK; Davos, Switzerland; and Brussels, Belgium from 19 January 2019 to 27 January 2019, to make a bilateral visit to the UK, attend the World Economic Forum in Davos, and meet key European Union leaders in Brussels.

Report

- 1 My key objectives in visiting the UK and Europe were to register New Zealand's commitment to partners at a critical juncture in the region and to advance New Zealand interests. These include ensuring we are well placed to negotiate an FTA with the UK when it is ready, and ensuring that our FTA negotiations with the EU result in a high-quality and progressive agreement. In attending the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Annual Meeting in Davos, my objectives were to raise New Zealand's profile, including with respect to our world-leading implementation of a wellbeing agenda, and to discuss key issues with government and business leaders present.

London

- 2 A key event of my visit to London 20-21 January was a working lunch at Number 10 Downing Street with Prime Minister, Theresa May. At this meeting, I sought to emphasise New Zealand's role as a committed and enduring partner for the UK as it redefines its global role post-Brexit. I also reaffirmed with the Prime Minister our expectation that New Zealand should be left no worse off as a result of Brexit, 6(a) [REDACTED]. Prime Minister May helpfully re-affirmed the UK's wish to launch FTA negotiations with us once it is in a position to do so, 6(a) [REDACTED].
- 3 The potential impact of Brexit was a central focus of my visit. On 21 January, I attended a roundtable at Lloyd's of London, where I was able to share perspectives with representatives of the financial services and business sectors on the possible impacts of the various Brexit scenarios, and register with them the work that would be required as part of any FTA negotiation. Alongside my visit, our High Commissioner signed two bilateral agreements that will help to provide continuity and stability for our exporters post-Brexit.

- 4 While in London I also helped to promote New Zealand business interests by speaking at an NZTE food and beverage showcase, aimed at introducing kiwis to senior British buyers and influencers in the food and beverage industry. NZTE representatives have reported that, as a result of the event, they have since been approached by 9(2)(b)(ii) , with both interested in purchasing new lines of New Zealand products.
- 5 My final London event was with the KEA network. It allowed me an opportunity to update London-based New Zealanders on the Government's priorities.

Davos

- 6 At the Davos World Economic Forum 22-24 January, I participated in three large public events. The first was the "Safeguarding our Planet" panel with Sir David Attenborough and Al Gore. This was an excellent platform to emphasise to a high-level audience the need for greater ambition in tackling environmental issues, and showcase recent efforts by the Government to address climate change, minimise waste, and protect biodiversity.
- 7 The second was the "More than GDP" panel, on which I appeared alongside OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría, high profile academic Mariana Mazzucato and UAE Minister of State, Ohood Bint Khalfan Al Roumi. I used this panel to raise awareness of the Government's world-leading implementation of a wellbeing agenda, and the merits of using a range of indicators to measure progress (including environmental sustainability and economic inclusiveness) as an alternative to the traditional measure of GDP.
- 8 My third panel, "Mental Health Matters", included His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cambridge. Drawing on the Government's new policy of placing nurses with mental health training into schools, this gave me another opportunity to profile our wellbeing approach, and focus on mental health in the upcoming wellbeing budget.
- 9 Against the background of US/China trade tensions and rising unilateralism, I was pleased to give the opening remarks at the Informal Gathering of World Leaders on Trade, a Chatham House rules event attended by an influential audience of Ministers and leaders from major economies, and business CEOs. In my remarks, I advocated for the importance of the multilateral trading system – and the need to take forward the WTO agenda in key areas such as dispute settlement and fish subsidies - and profiled the Government's "Trade for All" work.
- 10 Outside WEF events, I met bilaterally with counterparts from Luxembourg, Estonia, and the Netherlands, 6(b) . I also had a meeting with the Vice President of Peru, Mercedes Araoz, focused on the Pacific Alliance negotiation, as well as WEF Founder Klaus Schwab and the Secretaries General of the OECD and Oxfam.

11 My engagement with business at the WEF included a dinner hosted by senior Google executives, which presented an opportunity to reiterate our recent concern over the breach of court ordered name suppression in a high profile murder case.

12 I also had separate meetings with IKEA CEO, Jesper Brodin, and Rio Tinto CEO Jean-Sebastian Jacques. 9(2)(b)(ii)

Brussels

13 In Brussels 24-25 January, I met European Council President, Donald Tusk, European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker and, at a working lunch, High Representative Vice President Federica Mogherini, First Vice President Franz Timmermans, and Agriculture Commissioner Phil Hogan. These engagements affirmed the value the NZ-EU relationship brings to both sides, and the scope for further cooperation. I received positive responses to my suggestion that the EU lift its engagement in the Pacific 6(a)

. Officials intend to follow up on this 6(a)

14 I registered with all leaders New Zealand's ambition to conclude a high-quality and progressive FTA. While this resulted in welcome reiterations of ambition around the FTA - which the Commission wants to substantively conclude this year - 6(b)

15 These meetings also afforded an opportunity to discuss various international developments. In relation to Iran, I reaffirmed our support for the EU's approach, 6(a)

16 I also met with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, to whom I emphasised New Zealand's commitment to international peace and security, and the international rules-based order. We had a useful discussion about Afghanistan and Iraq. I flagged that Cabinet would consider New Zealand deployments later this year, including the full range of possible options. Secretary-General Stoltenberg 6(b) expressed his gratitude for New Zealand contributions to NATO so far.

Media

17 I undertook a range of media engagements on the visit, designed to maximise New Zealand's profile. In the UK, I was interviewed by *The Times*, and the BBC, and published an op-ed in the *Telegraph* on the NZ-UK relationship.

- 18 While I had a number of media engagements in Davos, most notable was my op-ed on the Government's wellbeing agenda in the *Financial Times*, and a WEF social media video that gained more than 4m views, which helped build on the profile given to our wellbeing approach through the "More than GDP" panel. An interview later in the week by *The Economist's* Chief Editor helped to maintain focus on this important policy initiative.
- 19 In Brussels, I was interviewed by Political Editor for Politico, Ryan Heath, covering a range of issues such as the EU-NZ FTA and climate change. This was recorded in front of an audience of approximately 50 people from the media, European Commission, and diplomatic corps, and was a good platform to profile New Zealand interests to a broader influential audience. It will be made into a podcast to be aired on the *Women Rule* channel.

Proactive release

- 20 I do not propose to proactively release this paper. To the extent it is in the public interest and parts of it do not need to be withheld under the Official Information Act, the substance could be released in the future through OIA releases of MFAT reporting.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister

Portfolio **Prime Minister**

On 11 March 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-19-SUB-0078 on her travel, from 19 to 27 January 2019, to:

- 1 London, United Kingdom, to meet with the British Prime Minister and key New Zealand business stakeholders;
- 2 Davos, Switzerland, to attend the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting;
- 3 Brussels, Belgium, to meet with senior European leaders.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister