



Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Report on Overseas Travel: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-SUB-0320 refers)

Title of minute: Report on Overseas Travel: Prime Minister (CAB-22-MIN-0320 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:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand

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 Madrid, Brussels and London from 26 June to 2 July to reconnect with important political and trade partners.

Report

- 1 This was my fourth overseas visit since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I was accompanied by a delegation of seven media. The trip provided an important opportunity to conclude the NZ-EU FTA negotiations, and to meet with key partners to discuss bilateral issues and global and regional challenges. The visit reaffirmed our close partnership with European counterparts at a time of global uncertainty and change; and underscored new opportunities for trade and tourism as part of New Zealand's reconnecting strategy.

Madrid, NATO Leaders Summit

- 2 On 29 June I participated in the full partner session of the NATO Leaders' Summit in Madrid, as well as a separate session of NATO's Asia Pacific Partners – Australia, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. My participation in these meetings underlined New Zealand's approach to the security challenges facing the Indo-Pacific, and the importance of values, relationships, and resilience, and was the second occasion a New Zealand Prime Minister had attended a NATO summit.

- 3 The focus of the full partner session of the Summit was global challenges, s6(a) [redacted] Allies emphasised the importance of NATO investing in partnerships, and the need to work together to uphold the rules-based international order.

- 4 s6(a) [redacted]
- [redacted]

6 In my intervention, I acknowledged New Zealand's relationship with NATO, but stressed that New Zealand was not at the Summit to expand its military alliances. I condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and argued not to allow the legacy of the war in Ukraine to become an arms race. I stressed that solidarity with Ukraine had to be matched by an equal commitment to strengthening international institutions, multilateral forums, and disarmament. I noted that s6(a) [redacted] stressed the need to strengthen the resilience of the Indo-Pacific through relationships and economic architecture rather than militarisation and welcomed the presence of like-minded partners in the region on these terms; and I called on members to send a strong message at the tenth Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in August. I concluded by emphasising that climate change was the primary security concern in the Pacific.

7 Japan convened the meeting of NATO's partners in the Asia Pacific. This was not part of the formal NATO Summit, and its purpose was to take advantage of four like-minded partners being together to have a separate, informal exchange on regional and global security matters.

8 At this meeting, I noted that we are seeing tensions increase in the region and sought partners' opinions on how countries could respond to escalating tensions s6(a) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Bilateral meetings

9 On 28 June, I met with President Sánchez for a discussion on the bilateral relationship. We discussed progress under our Global Values Partnership of joint work in areas such as the death penalty and on gender violence. We discussed the progress of an implementation plan for the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation on Seabird Conservation. We also agreed a ten-fold increase in working holiday visas (up from 200 to 2000). I invited President Sánchez to participate in the Christchurch Call Summit during UNGA in New York in September; and confirmed my earlier invitation for the President to visit New Zealand.

10 On 28 June, I also met with President Macron. Our discussion primarily s6(a) [redacted] Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the Christchurch Call, and the conclusion of the EU-NZ FTA. On France's engagement with the Pacific, s6(a) [redacted]
s6(a) [redacted]

11 On the side lines of the NATO Summit on 29 June, I held formal bilateral meetings with Chancellor Scholz and Prime Minister Rutte. The discussions in both meetings focused on Ukraine, China, the EU's Pacific engagement (including highlighting the role of PACER Plus) and climate change issues (including the transition to renewable energy). I thanked both leaders for their strong support for the conclusion of the EU-NZ FTA.

- 12 I also had informal discussions with a number of other NATO leaders including Prime Minister Draghi, President Duda and Prime Minister Trudeau.

Brussels

- 13 My visit to Brussels on 29-30 June, where I was accompanied by Minister O'Connor, was centred around the successful conclusion of negotiations for the EU–NZ FTA. By any measure, the conclusion of negotiations for this FTA is an outstanding achievement that will deliver inter-generational results to the New Zealand economy and is a historic outcome for New Zealand's prosperity, security and sustainability.

- 14 s6(a)
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- A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with grey bars, obscuring the text for item 14.

- 15 I also met with the President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, influential Members of the European Parliament, and several European Commissioners (including the climate, trade and agriculture commissioners) to discuss the FTA, the climate crisis, and Russia's illegal war in Ukraine. I also met with the Secretary General of the International Trade Confederation Union.

- 16 I spoke at the Reconnecting New Zealand reception following the FTA announcement. Attendees included the European Commissioners for Trade (Valdis Dombrovskis), Values and Transparency (Věra Jourová), and Agriculture (Janusz Wojciechowski), numerous Members of the European Parliament, Permanent Representatives from EU Member States in Brussels, and other senior EU officials.

Telephone call with President Zelenskyy

- 17 On 30 June, I spoke with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, during which I reiterated New Zealand's strong solidarity with Ukraine in the face of Russia's brutal and illegal invasion. The President and I also discussed Ukraine's emerging recovery strategy.

London

- 18 My visit to the UK reaffirmed the alignment between our two countries on the most challenging geopolitical issues, deepened personal relationships after two years largely without face-to-face meetings, accelerated the ways in which both countries can take advantage of the NZ-UK FTA and demonstrated to the UK domestic audience that New Zealand is ready to build back the pre-Covid connectivity we enjoyed with the UK.
- 19 My programme included a bilateral meeting and working lunch with Prime Minister Johnson during which we discussed the ratification of the NZ-

UK FTA implementation legislation this year and the UK becoming a PACER Plus Strategic Partner. We had a wide-ranging discussion which interrogated the implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the potential read-across to our region.

- 20 Prime Minister Johnson and I signed an arrangement on Research, Science and Innovation and letters that expand the Working Holiday Scheme. We also issued a joint statement (*Building a more secure, sustainable and prosperous future together*) which sets out shared UK and New Zealand thinking on a range of geopolitical issues and lays the groundwork for enhanced cooperation in the Pacific, on climate change, science and technology and other areas. The meeting was tautoko'd by a Ngāti Rānana performance in the garden at No.10 Downing Street.
- 21 My speech to Chatham House traced the origins of New Zealand's independent foreign policy, centring in on multilateralism and the value New Zealand places on dialogue. I addressed challenges including climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine and geostrategic competition in the Pacific. Questions covered a wide range of topics from China and Taiwan to climate change and abortion.
- 22 I also met privately with Sir Keir Starmer and the Labour leadership team, was received in a private Audience by Prince William, appeared on the Lorraine morning show, hosted a reconnection-focused reception and spoke by phone with Prince Charles (Her Majesty was in Scotland at the time of the visit).

Announcements and engagements

- 23 In Madrid, I announced the expansion of the Working Holiday Scheme with Spain. I also delivered a keynote address to Tech4Democracy, a joint initiative between the business school Institute de Empresas, the US State Department and Microsoft.
- 24 In Brussels, together with EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, I announced the conclusion of the EU-NZ FTA; and witnessed the signing of the Agreement between the New Zealand Police and the European Police Agency, Europol, which will better enable New Zealand to disrupt serious crimes and terrorism through the sharing of personal information.
- 25 In London, I announced the expansion of the Working Holiday Scheme with the UK.

Proactive release

- 26 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern

Prime Minister

Proactively Released



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 15 August 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from the Prime Minister under CAB-22-SUB-0320 on her travel, from 26 June to 2 July 2022, to:

- 1 Madrid, Spain to represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit and hold bilateral discussions;
- 2 Brussels, Belgium to conclude the EU-NZ Free Trade Agreement and meet with the President of the European Parliament;
- 3 London, United Kingdom to meet with the Prime Minister and the Duke of Cambridge.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet