

HON JUDITH COLLINS KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

MINISTERIAL TRAVEL 28 MAY TO 2 JUNE 2025

August 2025

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Judith Collins KC travel over the period 28 May to 2 June 2025, to Singapore for the Asia-Tech Summit and Shangri-La Dialogue.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the May 2025 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May 2025* [CAB-25-SUB-0156 and CAB-25-MIN-0156].
- the July 2025 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May/June 2025* [CAB-25-SUB-0230 and CAB-25-MIN-0230].

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: www.defence.govt.nz/publications/ministerial-travel-28-may-to-2-june-2025/

Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)].
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)].

Information is also withheld in order to maintain:

- the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)].

Where information is withheld under section 9(2) of the Act it is not considered that the public interest outweighs the need to protect it.



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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC - May 2025

Portfolios **Defence / Digitising Government**

On 12 May 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Judith Collins KC from New Zealand, from 28 May to 2 June 2025, to travel to Singapore for the Asia Tech Summit and Shangri-La Dialogue;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by two members of staff from her office, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Defence;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$25,842.60 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that she will be accompanied by a delegation from the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose costs will be met by their agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Attorney-General, Minister Responsible for the GSCB and Minister Responsible for the NZSIS;
 - 5.2 Hon Chris Penk act as Minister of Defence;
 - 5.3 Hon James Meager act as Minister for Digitising Government and Minister for the Public Service;
 - 5.4 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister for Space;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence
Office of the Minister for Digitising Government
Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore from 28 May to 02 June under my Defence and Digitising Government portfolios.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave is not required as the House will not be sitting during this period.

Purpose of Travel

Asia Tech Summit

- 3 I plan to attend the Asia Tech Summit as Minister for Digitising Government. I attended this event last year and it was a valuable opportunity to hear more about what partners are doing with AI technology, governance, safety and government digitisation.
- 4 I see immense value in participating in this programme again this year and will seek calls on my counterparts to further learn more about what their governments are doing in this space.

Shangri-La Dialogue

- 5 Hosted annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, last year's Shangri-La Dialogue brought together four Heads of State and 32 Defence Ministers, including, but not limited to, my counterparts [REDACTED] s6(a) [REDACTED] This year I intend on seeking bilateral meetings with key partners and will speak at a plenary session [REDACTED] s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- 6 Last year's dialogue was an immensely valuable insight into our security partners' regional perspectives, especially during this time of heightened geopolitical tensions. Now more than ever, it is important for New Zealand to be present and engaged in regional dialogue and discussion so we can continue to have a role in Indo-Pacific security.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I would be accompanied by one member of staff from my Office (travel costs met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel), and my Defence Private Secretary (travel costs met by Vote Defence).

- 8 Officials from the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force would also accompany me at departmental cost.

Travel Costs

- 9 The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff members travel) are:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Airfares: | \$13,012.00 |
| Accommodation: | \$10,100.00 |
| Meals | \$1200.00 |
| Gifts | \$100.00 |
| Contingency (5%) | \$1230.60 |
| Total: | \$25.842.60 |

Acting Ministers

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

- 10.1 Attorney-General: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 10.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
- 10.3 Digitising Government: Hon James Meager
- 10.4 GCSB: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 10.5 NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 10.6 Public Service: Hon James Meager
- 10.7 Space: Hon Simon Watts

Proactive release

- 11 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from approximately 28 May – 02 June, to travel to Singapore for the Asia Tech Summit and Shangri-La Dialogue;
- 2 **note** that House leave will not be required as the House will not be sitting during this period;

- 3 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office;
- 4 **note** that I will be accompanied by a delegation from the Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose costs will be met by departmental budgets;
- 5 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$25,842.60 for my travel expenses and a member of staff from my office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 6 **agree** that in my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- 6.1 Attorney-General: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
 - 6.3 Digitising Government: Hon James Meager
 - 6.4 GCSB: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.5 NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.6 Public Service: Hon James Meager
 - 6.7 Space: Hon Simon Watts
- 7 **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Defence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Defence

Minister for Digitising Government



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC - May/June 2025

Portfolios **Defence / Digitising Government**

On 14 July 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Judith Collins KC under CAB-25-SUB-0230 on her travel to Singapore, from 28 May to 2 June 2025, to attend the AsiaXTech Summit and Shangri-La Dialogue.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence
Office of the Minister for Digitising Government
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC

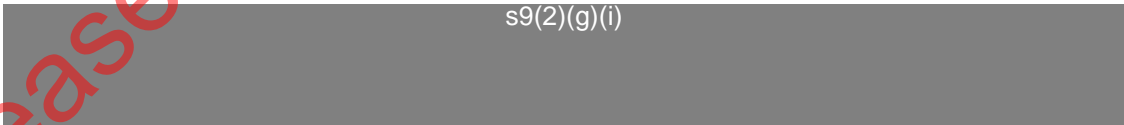
I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel from 28 May – 2 June 2025 to Singapore under my Defence and Digitising Government portfolios.

Report

Asia Tech Summit

- 1 On 29 May, I attended the AsiaXTech Summit. As part of this programme, I took the time to meet with my counterparts from Ireland, India and Singapore to discuss common challenges and the need to drive progress in digitising government.
- 2 I also visited GovTech, where the team provided a practical demonstration of Singapore's successful digitisation strategy. I took the opportunity to share the progress New Zealand has made with the NZ Verify app and work underway on an All of Government App.

Shangri-La Dialogue

- 3 Hosted annually by the International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS), the Shangri-La Dialogue is the premier Indo-Pacific security summit, bringing defence ministers and heads of state from across the region.
- 4 On the sidelines of the formal IISS programme, I held 15 bilateral meetings with a range of counterparts and groupings including Australia, Chile, Papua New Guinea, Japan, Singapore, Viet Nam, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, ministerial counterparts from the Five Power Defence Arrangement, the Secretary General of the Pacific Island Forum, and a US Congressional Delegation.
- 5  s9(2)(g)(i)
- 6 As part of the Shangri-La programme, I spoke on a panel with my counterparts from Finland and France titled *Cyber, Undersea & Outer-Space Defence Challenges*. This was a valuable opportunity to reaffirm New Zealand's commitment to collective security across a wide range of domains. I was also able to discuss our successful space sector, and that New Zealand had the third-highest number of launches last year.

- 7  s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Proactive release

14 This paper will be proactively released, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government

Released by the Minister of Defence