

HON JUDITH COLLINS KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL 28 MAY TO 2 JUNE 2024

September 2024

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Judith Collins' travel to Singapore for the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue, the Five Power Defence Arrangement Ministers' Meeting, and the Asia Tech X Summit.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the March 2024 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May 2024* [CAB-24-SUB-0093 and CAB-24-MIN-0093]
- the July 2024 Cabinet paper and associated Cabinet minute of decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May 2024* [CAB-24-SUB-0264 and CAB-24-MIN-0264]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: www.defence.govt.nz/publications/ministerial-overseas-travel-28-05-2024-to-02-06-2024/

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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)] and
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on the 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)]



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 - May 2024

Portfolio Defence / Science, Innovation and Technology

On 25 March 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Judith Collins from New Zealand, from 28 May to 2 June 2024, to travel to Singapore for the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue, the Five Power Defence Arrangements Ministers Meeting, and the Asia Tech X Singapore Summit;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whom's costs will be met by Vote Defence;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$32,500 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 also be accompanied by a delegation from the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Defence, whose costs will be met by their agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Chris Penk act as Attorney-General, Minister of Defence and Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques;
 - 5.2 Hon Melissa Lee act as Minister for Digitising Government;
 - 5.3 Hon Andrew Bayly act as Minister Responsible for the GCSB and Minister Responsible for the NZSIS;
 - 5.4 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology and Minister for Space;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – May/June 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Singapore from 28 May to 2 June to attend the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue: 21st Asia Security Summit (“the Shangri-La Dialogue”), the Five Power Defence Arrangements Ministers Meeting, and the Asia Tech X Singapore summit.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The Shangri-La Dialogue is the premier forum for Defence Ministers in the Indo-Pacific. The high levels of attendance from Ministers, defence force leaders, and senior security agency officials make it an important focal point for major power relationships and for discussion on contemporary strategic issues.
- 4 s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
I will discuss New Zealand’s approach to the interlinkages of security challenges from within and outside the Indo-Pacific. This is an important opportunity to provide New Zealand’s perspective on future challenges in our region, s6(a) [redacted]
- 5 The Shangri-La Dialogue also provides opportunities for bilateral discussions with my international counterparts throughout the summit s6(a) [redacted]
- 6 I will also be meeting with the Five Power Defence Arrangements Defence Ministers’ for the triennial formal meeting. s6(a) [redacted]
These engagements provide a valuable opportunity to share perspectives on some of the most crucial security issues facing our region with some of its most influential actors.
- 7 In addition, I intend to participate in the Asia Tech X Singapore Summit, held between 29 and 31 May. There will be an opportunity to speak at panels and the Government-to-Government Roundtable, hosted by Singapore’s Minister for Communications and Information, and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Josephine Teo.

8 s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

9 I also intend to meet with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic Policies, Mr Heng Swee Keat. s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

Ministerial Party

- 10 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).
- 11 A delegation from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence would also accompany me at departmental cost.

Travel Costs

12 The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff member's travel) are:

Airfares	\$16,586.00
Accommodation	\$11,000.00
Meals	\$664.20
Gifts	\$1,000.00
Subtotal	\$29,250.20
Contingency (10%)	\$3,250.00
TOTAL	\$32,500.00

Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be as follows (these may be subject to change).

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 Simon Watts

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

- 14 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

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand over 28 May to 2 June, to travel to Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue, Five Power Defence Arrangements Triennial Meeting, and Asia Tech x Singapore;
 - 1.2 **note** that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip;
 - 1.3 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office;
 - 1.4 **note** that I will be accompanied by a delegation from the New Zealand Defence Force and the Ministry of Defence, whose costs will be met by departmental budgets;
 - 1.5 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$32,500.00 for my travel expenses and a member of staff from my office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.6 **agree** that in my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will likely be:
 - 1.6.1 Attorney-General: Hon Chris Penk
 - 1.6.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
 - 1.6.3 Digitising Government: Hon Melissa Lee
 - 1.6.4 GCSB: Hon Andrew Bayly
 - 1.6.5 NZSIS: Hon Andrew Bayly
 - 1.6.6 Science, Innovation and Technology: Hon Simon Watts
 - 1.6.7 Space: Hon Simon Watts

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

1.7 **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 of Science, Innovation and Technology

Released by the Minister of Defence



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: Hon Judith Collins KC - May 2024

Portfolios **Defence / Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 22 July 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Judith Collins KC under CAB-24-SUB-0264 on her travel, from 28 May to 2 June 2024, to Singapore for the International Institute for Strategic Studies Shangri-La Dialogue, the Five Power Defence Arrangement Ministers' Meeting, and the Asia Tech X Summit.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister of Defence, Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology,
Minister for Digitising Government, and Minister Responsible for NZSIS/GCSB

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Singapore from 28 May to 2 June 2024 for the Asia Tech Summit, Five Power Defence Arrangement Ministers' meeting, and the Shangri-La Dialogue.

Report

Asia Tech Summit

1 From 28th to 30th May, I attended the annual Asia TechX summit. The summit was focused on AI technology, governance and safety, and attracted over 4,000 participants from 58 countries. This provided opportunities to engage with senior government technology leaders and big tech companies (including Open AI, Microsoft, Meta, and Google). I also participated in roundtable discussions with small states on issues of AI governance, safety, and government digitisation.

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

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

4 I also visited Singapore's Anti-Scam Centre which highlighted lessons for New Zealand's evolving approach and models for industry/government collaboration on scam detection and enforcement. s6(b)(i)

5 Finally, I was briefed by AI Singapore on Singapore's integrated approach to its AI eco-system. I met with AI Singapore's Executive Chairman, Professor Ho Teck Hua, who explained Singapore's approach to the development of its

AI talent pipeline.

s6(b)(i)

Five Power Defence Arrangement Meeting

- 6 On 31 May, I attended the 12^h Five Power Defence Arrangement (FPDA) Defence Ministers' Meeting with my counterparts from Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, and a representative from the UK. This was the first time since 2017 that the FPDA Defence Ministers were able to meet in person.
- 7 My counterparts and I signed the 12^h FPDA Defence Ministers' Joint Declaration which reaffirmed our nations' strong and continued commitment to the FPDA, and noted that the FPDA is a unique multilateral arrangement that, through its remit, has played a constructive role in enhancing regional peace and security.¹

Shangri-La Dialogue Plenary sessions

- 8 Hosted by the International Institute of Strategic Studies from 31 May-2 June, the 21st Shangri-La Dialogue brought together four Heads of State and 32 Defence Ministers to discuss common security challenges.

9 s6(a)

- 10 Alongside defence ministers from Thailand and Canada, I spoke at Plenary 6 "Connecting the Indian Ocean and Pacific Security." My speech was also an opportunity to reemphasise New Zealand's support for the rules-based

¹ The FPDA Defence Ministers' Joint Declaration can be accessed at https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2024/May/31may24_fs

international system, and the importance of security cooperation on issues where states share interests.

Bilateral meetings with counterparts

11 In addition to attending the plenary sessions, I conducted 10 bilateral engagements including with counterparts from Canada, Australia, NATO, Philippines, Fiji, Lithuania, Singapore, the United Kingdom and Japan. These meetings were a useful opportunity to establish and reaffirm ties with my counterparts from across the Indo-Pacific and Europe.

12 Four common themes were raised across many of these meetings which were:

- s6(a) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

13 I also met with Admiral Dong Jun, the Chinese Minister for National Defense, for the first time since our respective appointments. s6(b)(i), s6(a)

[Redacted]

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 Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for NZSIS/GCSB

Released by the Minister of Defence