

Chair
Cabinet

**PROPOSED OVERSEAS TRAVEL: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, FRIDAY 20
MAY 2022 – FRIDAY 27 MAY 2022 INCLUSIVE**

Proposal

1. I seek Cabinet's approval to travel in my capacity as Minister of Health to Switzerland to attend the World Health Assembly, and to the United Kingdom to meet with global experts in health locality planning, from Friday 20 May 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022 travel inclusive.
2. Approval in-principle to travel has been granted by the Prime Minister.

Purpose of travel

3. The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of World Health Organisation (WHO). It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed programme budget.
4. Ministry of Health officials have recommended I attend this year's World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland, to deliver New Zealand's national address and attend bilateral meetings with other Health Ministers. This will be the first significant in-person meeting of Health Ministers since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
5. It is anticipated that New Zealand's national address will be delivered local Geneva time on any of Sunday 22 May 2022, Monday 23 May 2022 or Tuesday 24 May 2022. The remainder of the time in Geneva would be used for bilateral meetings.
6. Additionally I would travel for one day to Dudley, United Kingdom, to meet with global experts in health locality planning. Improved locality planning is an important objective of the government's health and disability reform agenda.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Ministerial Party

- 7. I would be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor, Lisa Petraschuk.
- 8. Ministry of Health officials would support me at departmental expense.

Travel Costs

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

Airfares
Offshore facilitation (commercial rate)
Accommodation
Reception for bilateral partners in Geneva if possible
Meals (maximum based on NZD \$85 DIA standard):
Surface travel:
Insurance:
Provision for document printing:
Communications:
Gifts:
Contingency (5%)

Total:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Acting Ministers

- 10. The following Ministers would act in my portfolios:
 - 10.1. Health – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
 - 10.2. NZSIS and GCSB – Hon Grant Robertson MP; and
 - 10.3. Pike River Re-entry:
 - 10.4. Hon Kiritapu Allan MP, 20 May 2022 to 22 May 2022;
 - 10.5. Hon David Parker MP, 23 May 2022 to 27 May 2022; and
 - 10.6. Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations – Hon Willie Jackson MP; and
 - 10.7. Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon Poto Williams MP.

Proactive release

- 11. It is proposed that this paper is proactively released by the Ministry of Health in accordance with CO (18) 4 after 30 business days following return.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Recommendations

1. The Minister of Health recommends that Cabinet:
 - 1.1. **approve** the Minister's absence from Friday 20 May 2022 to Friday 27 May 2022 to visit Switzerland and the United Kingdom
 - 1.2. **approve** the estimated expenditure of **s 9(2)(f)(iv)** for travel expenses for the Minister and his press secretary, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel]
 - 1.3. **agree** that in the Minister's absence the following Ministers will act in his respective portfolios:
 - 1.3.1. Health – Hon Peeni Henare MP; and
 - 1.3.2. NZSIS and GCSB – Hon Grant Robertson MP; and
 - 1.3.3. Pike River Re-entry:
 - 1.3.4. Hon Kiritapu Allan MP, 20 May 2022 to 22 May 2022;
 - 1.3.5. Hon David Parker MP, 23 May 2022 to 27 May 2022
 - 1.3.6. Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations – Hon Willie Jackson MP
 - 1.3.7. Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – Hon Poto Williams MP.
 - 1.4. **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Health.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health