

[RESTRICTED]

Office of the Minister for Social Development and Employment, ACC and Arts, Culture and Heritage

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Carmel Sepuloni

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Scotland, France and the Netherlands from 24 August – 3 September 2022.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 This overseas travel, if approved, would be my first as Minister for Social Development and Employment and ACC since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ It is a significant opportunity to share information about our COVID-19 response and learn from the experiences of foreign governments as we accelerate our recovery and lay the foundations for a thriving, more resilient economy and arts and cultural sector in the future.
- 4 The key objectives of the travel are to:
 - 4.1 Attend the Edinburgh International Culture Summit (Summit) in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Summit's Culture and Education theme makes it a platform to demonstrate the value Aotearoa New Zealand places on the protection, recognition, and utilisation of indigenous arts, culture and heritage and share learnings about our mahi to support sustainable cultural institutions and careers for artists.
 - 4.2 Engage in bilateral meetings with my Ministerial counterparts and representatives of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) regarding supporting our countries' recovery from COVID-19 through employment, education and training, and using the recovery as an opportunity to explore ways to safeguard workers from future economic shocks.

Edinburgh International Culture Summit

- 5 The Summit brings together Culture Ministers, artists, thinkers, and art leaders from around the world to share ideas, expertise, and best practice over three days from 26 – 28 August 2022 in Edinburgh, Scotland. It is one of the most important events in the international arts and cultural calendar and a

¹ I travelled to Samoa in my capacity as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage as part of the Prime Minister's Parliamentary and community delegation between 1 and 2 August 2022.

significant platform to demonstrate Aotearoa New Zealand's values on the world stage.

- 6 The organisers have invited me to present to attendees at the summit on the key theme of Culture and Education, including the protection, recognition, and utilisation of indigenous arts, culture and heritage (such as language revitalisation and traditional knowledge systems). After a long period away from international cultural events due to COVID-19, Ministerial presence at the Summit and contribution to this discussion will support the mana and profile of Toi Māori and Aotearoa New Zealand arts and culture overseas.
- 7 Under the korowai of the Culture and Education theme, the Summit will also canvas issues related to the sustainability of arts and cultural institutions and careers. We have made significant investments in Aotearoa New Zealand's arts and cultural sectors as part of our COVID-19 response. As we move to consider how we support sustainable arts and cultural institutions and careers for Aotearoa New Zealand artists going forward, the Summit provides a unique opportunity to learn from the experiences of other Governments facing similar challenges at home.
- 8 I therefore plan to undertake bilateral meetings with key arts and culture sector leaders from England, Scotland and Ireland during the Summit, including the Irish Minister for Culture, the United Kingdom's Under Secretary of State for Arts, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs & Culture, as well as more detailed discussions with Arts Council England and Creative Scotland. I will continue to explore opportunities to strengthen existing and build new bilateral relationships at the Summit.²
- 9 I will also meet with New Zealanders, including Michael Braithwaite, the Director of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, who are participating in the Summit or associated cultural festivals to celebrate their achievements and discuss their experiences of the return of large-scale events overseas.

Bilateral meetings

- 10 Scotland pioneered the regional approach to addressing long-term changes to vocational and tertiary education systems on which our Regional Skills Leadership Groups are based. During my visit to Edinburgh to attend the Summit, I will hold a bilateral meeting with the Scottish Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employment and Training to facilitate the sharing of information about and lessons from Scotland's Regional Skills Investment Plans for our work to implement the Regional Workforce Plans that were recently launched by our Regional Skills Leadership Groups.
- 11 I also intend to meet with the Scottish Director-General Communities, and am seeking the attendance of the Ministers for Just Transition, Employment and Fair Work; and Equalities and Older People, to discuss their Government's investment in employment, upskilling and training as part of its response to

² Other attendants at the Summit are currently expected to include representatives from the United States of America, Baltic States, Poland, the Netherlands, Western Balkans, Kenya, South Korea, South Africa, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, India, Pakistan, China, and Singapore.

COVID-19 and Partnership Action for Continuing Employment, which supports Scots who are economically displaced or at risk of redundancy.

- 12 The Dutch have operated a social unemployment insurance system since 1952. This is part of a range of compulsory social insurances for employees, which also cover sickness and disability – as would our proposed NZIIS scheme. I will travel from Edinburgh to The Hague to undertake a bilateral meeting with Karien van Gennip, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment, followed by a detailed briefing from the Dutch Employee Insurance Agency on their scheme and other visits with an arts and culture and employment focus.
- 13 The French Government established the 1 Jeune, 1 Solution (1 young person, 1 solution) programme in 2020. I will leave the Netherlands to travel to Paris for a bilateral meeting with the French Minister for Labour, Employment and Economic Inclusion to discuss how the programme has supported France's COVID-19 response and commonalities with our employment initiatives, such as the Direct Careers Service and Youth Employment Action Plan.
- 14 The OECD is based in Paris and I will meet with its Secretary-General. As the most senior Minister to visit the OECD since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an opportunity to strengthen the important relationship New Zealand has with the forum. The OECD is also the home for world-leading experts on income insurance schemes. I will meet with its Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs to draw on this expertise as⁹⁽²⁾
(f)
(iv).
CC begins the process of designing its operations.
- 15 While in Paris I will also meet with representatives of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and OECD experts, including the former Chief Executive of the Social Wellbeing Agency (SWA), who lead work on data and evidence-driven insights and policy. This is an opportunity to draw on international expertise to improve the way the SWA utilises data and evidence to support good policy in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Ministerial Party

- 16 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Party.
- 17 One official from Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage will accompany me to Edinburgh, Scotland and one official from each of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Accident Compensation Corporation will accompany me to The Hague, Netherlands and Paris, France. The travel costs of these officials will be covered by their respective agencies' budgets.

Travel Costs

- 18 The estimated costs of travel for myself and my staff member are

Flights: \$48,600

Ground transport \$2500

Accommodation: \$6850
Per diems: \$2120
Gifts \$2400
Insurance \$162.80
Contingency (10%) \$6263.28
Total: \$68,897

Acting Ministers

- 19 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- 19.1 Minister for Social Development and Employment: Hon Radhakrishnan
 - 19.2 Minister for ACC: Hon Jackson
 - 19.3 Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage: Hon Allan

Proactive release

- 20 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 1.1 authorise my absence from Aotearoa New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 24 August to 3 September 2022 to travel to Edinburgh, Scotland, The Hague, Netherlands and Paris, France to attend the Edinburgh International Culture Summit and engage in a series of bilateral meetings;
 - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of my staff;
 - 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$68,897 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by one official from Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage in Edinburgh, Scotland and one official from each of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Accident Compensation Corporation in The Hague, Netherlands and Paris, France, whose travel costs will be met by their respective agencies;
 - 1.5 agree that in my absence:

- 1.5.1 Hon Radhakrishnan will act as Minister for Social Development and Employment;
 - 1.5.2 Hon Jackson will act as Minister for ACC; and
 - 1.5.3 Hon Allan will act as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni

Minister for Social Development and Employment, ACC and Arts, Culture and Heritage