



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Simon Watts	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – February 2026	<b>Date to be published</b>	18 March 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
August 2025	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – February 2026	Office of the Minister for Energy
11 August 2025	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – February 2026 CAB-25-MIN-0025 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES / NO** (please select)

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – February 2026

**Portfolio**                      **Energy**

On 9 February 2026, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Simon Watts from New Zealand, from 16 to 20 February 2026, to travel to Paris, France to attend the 2026 International Energy Agency Ministerial Meeting and undertake bilateral meetings;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$30,146 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will also be accompanied by an official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, whose travel costs will be met by their agency;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Simeon Brown act as Minister for Energy;
  - 5.2      Hon Chris Bishop act as Minister of Local Government;
  - 5.3      Hon Scott Simpson act as Minister of Climate Change and Minister of Revenue;
- 6        **noted** that leave from the House has been approved.

Diana Hawker  
for Secretary of the Cabinet