



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Brooke van Velden	Portfolio	Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden: June 2026	Date to be published	26 June 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
May 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden: June 2026	Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
18 May 2026	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – June 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0168 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under the Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden: June 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Singapore from 2 - 13 June.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and leave from the House has been approved.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The purpose of my travel is to attend and represent New Zealand at the International Labour Conference (ILC), and the Asia Pacific Labour Ministers meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, convened by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- 4 The ILO is the peak global forum for workplace relations policy and the development of international labour standards. The ILC is the ILO's principal annual event, likely attracting over 4000 attendees, including Labour Ministers and Heads of State from ILO's 187 member states. It provides an important opportunity to highlight New Zealand's recent workplace relations reforms, including the introduction of the 'gateway test', improving labour market flexibility, and the refocusing of the primary health and safety regulator. The ILC will also provide opportunities to engage with ministers and senior ILO officials on matters of mutual interest.
- 5 I intend to seek portfolio-relevant engagements with workplace relations, health and safety and public goods funding ministers and agencies in London, United Kingdom, and similarly, in Singapore.
- 6 Both the United Kingdom and Singapore are undergoing policy reform in areas relevant to my portfolio presenting an opportunity for New Zealand to test its own reform trajectory, including recent changes made to the Employment Relations Amendment Act 2000 and proposed changes to the health and safety and employment standards settings.
- 7 These discussions would deepen shared understanding of how labour market regulation impacts productivity, worker protections, and business confidence, while reinforcing New Zealand's reputation as a constructive, credible partner engaged in shaping modern, fair, and effective employment systems.

Programme

- 8 I propose to depart New Zealand for London at 11.55pm on Tuesday 2 June and arrive back in New Zealand at 8.25am on Saturday 13 June. I note that the period of my travel is set down as Parliamentary recess weeks.
- 9 While in London, I will engage on matters across both of my portfolios. For Workplace Relations and Safety, I will discuss recent labour market reforms in New Zealand and the United Kingdom, including changes to leave entitlements, employee protections, industrial action settings, and dismissal protections. There may also be an opportunity to engage with the United Kingdom Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) on shared dispute-resolution challenges.
- 10 For the Internal Affairs portfolio, I will engage with representatives from the British Library on administration of the United Kingdom's Public Lending Right (PLR) scheme, including its extension to digital books, to gain insight into policy rationale, consultation feedback, and operational challenges. There may also be an opportunity to engage with senior leaders from the United Kingdom Gambling Commission, Gamstop Online, GamCare, and the UK Advertising Standards Authority to identify shared gambling regulatory challenges and opportunities.
- 11 During my time at the ILC in Geneva, I intend to deliver remarks at the plenary session, highlighting New Zealand's priorities, positions, and signalling policy directions and achievements; participate in the Asia Pacific Labour Ministers meeting; engage with key ILO staff, such as the Director General, strengthening New Zealand's relationship with the ILO; and, observe the ILC Committees in action, improving understanding on international labour challenges, such as decent work in the platform economy. I also intend to seek opportunities to hold bilateral meetings with Ministers from other countries attending the ILC.
- 12 While in Singapore, I intend to engage on its health and safety reforms, including the Workplace Safety and Health 2028 Strategy, which emphasises emerging technologies and predictive analysis to improve outcomes in high-risk workplaces. I also intend to discuss Singapore's phased labour reforms, including measures to strengthen protections for platform workers, promote workplace fairness, and support flexible work arrangements and senior employment. Sharing New Zealand's recent reforms through the Employment Relations Amendment Act 2026, and proposed changes under the Employment Leave Bill, will support bilateral engagement and help ensure New Zealand's workplace relations and safety settings remain robust, future-focused, and informed by international practice.

Ministerial Party

- 13 I will be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor.

- 14 I will also be accompanied by one official from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). Their travel costs will be fully funded by MBIE.

Travel Costs

- 15 The indicative cost of travel for this trip is \$60,480. This will be charged to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel, made up as follows:

Airfares:	\$46,800
Accommodation:	\$7,500
Meals	\$2000
Gifts	\$350
Transportation	\$950
Contingency (5%)	\$2880
Total:	\$60,480

Acting Ministers

- 16 For the duration of this travel, Hon Nicole McKee will cover the Internal Affairs portfolio, and Hon Andrew Hoggard will cover the Workplace Relations and Safety portfolio.

Proactive release

- 17 I intend to release this Cabinet paper proactively, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

1. **Authorise** my absence from New Zealand from Tuesday 2 June to Saturday 13 June 2026 to travel to the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Singapore to attend the ILC in Geneva, and to meet with equivalent ministerial representatives;
2. **Agree** that I be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor;
3. **Approve** the estimated expenditure of **\$60,480** for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs Members of the Executive – Travel;
4. **Agree** that in my absence Hon Nicole McKee will act as Minister of Internal Affairs and Hon Andrew Hoggard will act as Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety;

5. **Note** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Brooke van Velden

Minister of Internal Affairs and Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety