



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Brooke van Velden	Portfolio	Workplace Relations and Safety
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – June 2026	Date to be published	11 August 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – June 2026	Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
20 July 2026	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – June 2026 CAB-26-MIN-0230 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Brooke van Velden – June 2026

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to the International Labour Conference (ILC) in Geneva, and to attend senior engagements and bilateral meetings in London and Singapore, from 3 June to 13 June 2026.

Report

International Labour Conference

- 1 The main purpose of this travel was to attend the ILC and the Asia Pacific Labour Ministers meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, convened by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The ILC is the ILO's principal annual event and provides opportunities to engage with ministers and senior ILO officials on matters of mutual interest. This year included a standard setting discussion on the platform economy.
- 2 At the conference, I delivered a speech at the ILC Plenary promoting New Zealand's recent introduction of a gateway test for contractors and how this may positively impact the platform economy. In this speech and in my bilateral meetings, I encouraged other countries to consider this solution in their own systems.
- 3 I observed negotiations in the Standard-Setting Committee on a new convention on Decent Work in the Platform Economy. I also met with representatives from platform worker organisations DoorDash, DiDi, and Uber, who were participating in this Committee. The insights I gained on the workings of this Committee informed my subsequent vote on the proposed convention.
- 4 I met with Director-General of the ILO, Gilbert F. Houngbo. We discussed how the ILO sets its work programme and areas of focus, how the ILO is managing its budget which is funded by member country subscription fees, and I encouraged streamlining the compliance it requires of member countries to reduce administrative costs.
- 5 I delivered a speech at the Asia Pacific Labour Ministers Meeting, which provides a forum to discuss shared labour market challenges in our region. My speech outlined the Government's recent employment law reforms, and I emphasised the importance of flexible, targeted regulation.

- 6 I took the opportunity to meet with counterpart Ministers who were also in Geneva for the ILC. I had bilateral meetings with: Ireland's Minister for Employment, Minister Alan Dillon; Kiribati's Minister of Employment and Human Resources, Honourable Auria Kitina; Samoa's Minister of Commerce, Industry, and Labour, Honourable Fata Ryan Al James Schuster; Fiji's Minister of Employment, Productivity and Workplace Relations, Honourable Agni Deo Singh; and Canada's Secretary of State (Labour), Honourable John Zerucelli.
- 7 I was particularly pleased to meet with Ministers from Fiji, Kiribati and Samoa to further strengthen our Pacific ties. They each mentioned their appreciation of the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme and I undertook to pass various requests from them on to relevant colleagues, which my officials have passed on to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

London and Singapore

- 8 For my Workplace Relations and Safety portfolio, I met with the Chair of the United Kingdom Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, Baroness Maggie Jones. This Government has public consultation underway on the employment dispute system, and I was impressed with the ways the UK is utilising rapid pilots and artificial intelligence to improve the system.
- 9 Also for my Workplace Relations and Safety portfolio, in Singapore I met with my counterpart, the Minister of Manpower, Dr Tan See Leng. Additionally, I met with Workplace Safety and Health Council Chairman, Abu Bakar Mohd Nor, and Commissioner Silas Sng.
- 10 For my Internal affairs portfolio, in London I met with United Kingdom Minister for Migration and Citizenship, Mike Tapp. As this Government has recently announced the introduction of a citizenship test, we primarily discussed lessons for New Zealand in implementing our own citizenship test.
- 11 In London and Singapore, I also took the opportunity to meet with senior officials who had valuable policy insights to share regarding policy programmes I have underway within the Internal Affairs portfolio. These included meetings with:
 - 11.1 The Chair of GAMSTOP, who operate an independent self-exclusion register for online gambling and could share insights on implementation. In New Zealand, the Online Casino Gambling Act 2026 requires the government to establish the regulations for a self-exclusion register by June 2027 which my officials are currently working on. I also met with Deputy Director, Gambling and Lotteries at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport to discuss our respective online gambling regulatory regimes.
 - 11.2 Public Lending Right officials at the British Library, to understand what could be learnt from the United Kingdom as the Department of Internal Affairs is undertaking its review of the New Zealand public lending right system. I also met with the National Library Board in Singapore.

- 11.3 The Singapore Civil Defence Force to learn from Singapore's approach to fire and emergency management, including its award-winning fire and emergency app.

Proactive release

- 12 I propose to release this paper within the normal Cabinet-mandated timeframes. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Brooke van Velden

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Minister of Internal Affairs