



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Casey Costello	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan	Date to be published	12 October 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
August 2026	Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan	Office of the Associate Minister of Immigration
26 August 2026	Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan ECO-26-MIN-0164 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

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 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.

Disclaimer: clarification (paragraph 28 of Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan) that the Ministry of Social Development funds a range of victim support services which would include supporting victims of trafficking delivered through civil society organisations.

Note that some information has been withheld for the reasons of international relations, maintenance of the law, legal professional privilege, privacy of natural persons.



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Trafficking in Persons National Action Plan

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 26 August 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that trafficking in persons is a serious human rights abuse and form of transnational organised crime that causes significant harm to victims, communities, New Zealand's economy, and national security interest;
- 2 **noted** that in December 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee approved the Transnational, Serious and Organised Crime (TSOC) Strategy 2026–2030, which included the development of a National Action Plan for Trafficking in Persons as a key action [SOU-25-MIN-0175];
- 3 **noted** that in August 2026, Cabinet agreed to establish a TSOC Chief Executives' Board for an initial two-year period with ministerial oversight to be determined by the Prime Minister and the Board's membership, priorities, and terms of reference to be set by the responsible Minister and co-chairs [CAB-26-MIN-0262];
- 4 **endorsed** the *National Action Plan for Trafficking in Persons* (the National Action Plan), attached as Appendix Three to the paper under ECO-26-SOU-0164;
- 5 **agreed** that the National Action Plan be implemented through a phased approach from 1 January 2027 through to 31 December 2032, beginning with the following foundational activities as part of phase one:
 - 5.1 mapping New Zealand's end-to-end response to trafficking in persons to understand the current operating model and identify opportunities to strengthen system performance;
 - 5.2 establishing coordinated governance and engagement frameworks;
 - 5.3 establishing a coordinated, victim centred process to enable timely access to support for victims of trafficking in persons;
 - 5.4 strengthening information sharing, data governance, and intelligence to support an effective trafficking response;

- 6 **agreed** that phase two activities of the National Action will focus on:
- 6.1 establishing standardised victim identification and screening processes to support early identification of victims of trafficking;
 - 6.2 building system capability through a coordinated cross-sector training programme;
 - 6.3 developing and coordinating protection frameworks and support services for child victims;
 - 6.4 strengthening regional partnerships throughout the Pacific to prevent child trafficking;
- 7 **directed** the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment to work with relevant TSOC agencies to progress the activities in paragraphs 5 and 6 above;
- 8 **noted** that progress against the National Action Plan will be monitored through cross-agency governance arrangements and reported annually to TSOC Strategy Ministers;
- 9 **noted** that the National Action Plan will be implemented within existing agency baselines and that any future funding proposals will be considered through normal Budget processes;
- 10 **authorised** the Associate Minister of Immigration (Hon Casey Costello) to make minor and technical amendments to the National Action Plan prior to publication;
- 11 **agreed** to the public release of the National Action Plan.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for ECO