

Proactive release of Cabinet material coversheet

Hon Andrew Little
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister of Health

Report on Overseas Travel
15 February 2022

These documents have been proactively released.

Date	Document	Title	Author
19/12/22	Cabinet Paper	Report on Overseas Travel: UKUSA Agreement ("Five Eyes") Capitals Visits, Sunday 4 September 2022 to Wednesday 14 September 2022	Office of Hon Andrew Little
19/12/22	Cabinet Minute	Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little	Cabinet Office

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Office of the Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Office of the Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Office of the Minister of Health

Chair
Cabinet

REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UKUSA AGREEMENT (“FIVE EYES”) CAPITALS VISITS, SUNDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2022 TO WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2022

Proposal

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Canberra, Australia; Washington DC, the United States of America; Ottawa, Canada; and London, United Kingdom from Sunday 4 September 2022 to Wednesday 14 September 2022 for bilateral discussions.

Report

2. This reports on travel in my capacity as Minister Responsible for the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) to visit ministerial counterparts, intelligence agencies and oversight bodies in the UKUSA Agreement (“Five Eyes”) capitals from Sunday 4 September 2022 to Wednesday 14 September 2022 inclusive.
3. The purpose of the travel was to take up invitations from counterpart Ministers and senior officials with responsibility for intelligence to visit, and to reinforce New Zealand’s contributions to the intelligence sharing partnership following the opening of New Zealand’s borders at a time of greater global instability and geostrategic competition.

Meetings in Canberra, Australia

4. In Canberra I met with the Hon Richard Marles, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence and Australian Signals Directorate; the Hon Tim Watts, Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs; the Hon Clare O’Neill, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cyber Security; and Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Minister of Trade.
5. My time in Canberra was a useful opportunity to establish ministerial links with the new Australian government in the intelligence and security space. I was warmly welcomed and it was clear that the new Federal Government is

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keen to strengthen the relationship with New Zealand. There was keen interest in developments in New Zealand and in particular implementation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry recommendations, our approach to cyber and disinformation and engagement with the Pacific.

6. ^{s 6(a)} [REDACTED]

7. Health Minister Butler shared Australia's similar challenges ^{s 6(b)(i)} [REDACTED]. Discussions stressed the value of harnessing indigenous/Māori community-led organisations to deliver COVID-19 messages and increase COVID-19 vaccination rates within certain communities. ^{s 6(b)(i)} [REDACTED]. Minister Butler noted potential for increased health collaboration in the Pacific.

8. I also attended Australian House of Representatives Questions Without Notice (Question Time) as a guest of the Australian Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Meetings in Washington DC, United States of America

9. While in Washington DC I undertook a programme of meetings which consisted of discussions with:
- 9.1. Kurt Campbell, Indo-Pacific Coordinator, US National Security Council;
 - 9.2. John Christopher (Chris) Inglis, National Cyber Director;
 - 9.3. General Paul Nakasone, Commander, U.S Cyber Command and Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service;
 - 9.4. Avril Haines, US Director of National Intelligence;
 - 9.5. Bill Burns, Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director;

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- 9.6. Senator Mark Warner, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Intelligence, and Senator Angus King, member of the Senate Intelligence Committee.
10. I also attended the 13th Billington CyberSecurity Summit Opening Reception which was hosted by the New Zealand Embassy. It was pleasing that Director Inglis attended the reception.
11. The meetings were all friendly, relaxed and productive. s 6(a)
[REDACTED]
12. s 6(a)
[REDACTED]
13. Shortly before my departure from Washington DC I was notified of the death of Her Majesty the Queen. s 6(a), s 9(2)(g)(i)
[REDACTED] and the then-British Deputy Prime Minister requested a call with me to reinforce the importance they placed on the visit occurring.

Meetings in Ottawa, Canada

14. In Ottawa I met with Dan Rogers, Associate Chief of the Communications Security Establishment, and Sami Khoury, Deputy Chief of the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (CCCS) to better understand Canada's perspective on cyber security issues.
15. The CCCS is part of the Communications Security Establishment (CSE) and Deputy Chief Khoury outlined the role and services provided by the Cyber Centre. It is the primary government authority on cyber matters and a 'one-stop shop' to provide advice, guidance and support on issues related to

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cyber security to strengthen resiliency for Canadians, including Government (federal, provincial/territorial and municipal) and law enforcement, large businesses, critical infrastructure, small to medium enterprises and individuals. The CCCS works with business to ensure they have cyber plans in place.

16. s 6(a) [REDACTED]

17. s 6(a) [REDACTED]

18. s 6(a) [REDACTED]

19. I also met with Dr Stephen Lucas, Deputy Minister for Health (equivalent to Director-General in the New Zealand system), in my capacity as Minister of Health. s 6(b)(1) [REDACTED]

Meetings in London, United Kingdom

20. My visit to London was at time of significant upheaval in the UK, with Prime Minister Truss confirmed in her role a week prior and, as noted above, the death of Elizabeth II just two days before my arrival. This meant there were a few changes to the planned programme of meetings. Despite this I had a full day of productive calls, including with Councillor Adam Jogee, Haringey Council and Jonathan Hall KC, Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation, and Sir Stephen Lovegrove, National Security Adviser.

21. A recent focus for Mr Hall had been radicalisation in prisons following the release of his report on terrorism in prisons earlier this year. s 6(a) [REDACTED]

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22. I was interested in the prevalence of and how to deal with youth terrorism.
s 6(a)
23. I also met with the Rt Hon Dr Julian Lewis, then-Chair of the United Kingdom Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, and Rt Hon Kevan Jones, then-Deputy Chair of the United Kingdom Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament (ISC). Dr Lewis and Mr Jones talked through other operational features of the ISC including its ability to call Ministers before the Committee and name them in reports. A key role for the Committee was monitoring the budget of security agencies, s 6(a)
I shared that New Zealand's statutory committee follows the same requirements as the ISC and highlighted close parallels between them.
24. In addition to scrutinising the UK's security agencies, the Committee deals with highly classified issues and regularly produces thematic and country specific reports. s 6(a)
25. My abiding reflection from my meeting with the then-ISC leads was that the UK's ISC regime is more removed from the executive than is the case in New Zealand, s 6(a)
The degree of executive involvement in New Zealand's ISC was remarked on in the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain and whether this should continue or chance forms part of the work currently being led by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.
26. I also met with outgoing National Security Adviser, Sir Stephen Lovegrove. I expressed New Zealand's appreciation for Five Eyes. It was a partnership that we got a lot out of, and contributed to significantly as well. s 6(a)

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§ 6(a)

§ 6(a)

27. As Minister of Health, I met with the Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey, then-Deputy Prime Minister and then-Secretary of State for Health and Social Care of the United Kingdom, and Lord Syed Salah Kamall, Baron Kamall, then-Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Technology, Innovation and Life Sciences. I also met separately Wes Streeting MP, United Kingdom Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

28. In those health meetings I outlined some of the challenges and opportunities facing the New Zealand health sector, including workforce issues, bedding-in the single national health authority, and dealing with one of the toughest winters for the flu on record. Coffey was interested in New Zealand's handling of COVID-19, noting there was to be a Public Inquiry in the UK's response. § 6(b)(1)

29. We also shared observations of mental health trends following COVID-19 and the prevalence of mental health issues for youth, noting that both countries had seen suicide rates decline despite an overall increase in mental health issues. § 6(b)(1)

Upon conclusion of the meeting, Coffey expressed interest in visiting New Zealand, to which I said she was always welcome.

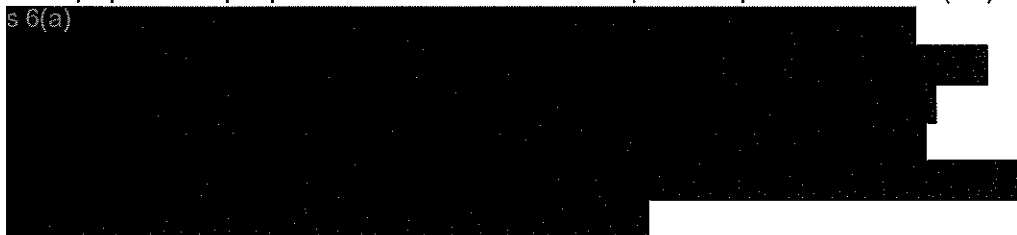
Summary of value

30. I consider the trip was very worthwhile in large part because it gave dedicated opportunities for Ministerial counterparts to hear from their own agency heads about critical importance they place on New Zealand's contribution to the Five Eyes. It is patently clear that periodic media commentary about New Zealand's place in the partnership is not based on fact. I consider that an equivalent programme should be conducted by the minister responsible for the intelligence agencies annually or at a minimum each Parliamentary term.

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31. It is proposed that this paper is proactively released by the GCSB with appropriate redactions.
32. This paper was prepared outside of the usual period specified in CO (18) 4.
s 6(a)



Recommendations

33. The Minister Responsible for the NZSIS, and Minister Responsible for the GCSB recommends that Cabinet **Note** this report.

Authorised for lodgement.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister of Health

12 December 2022



Cabinet ~~Proactive Release~~

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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

Portfolios Health / GCSB / NZSIS

On 19 December 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Andrew Little under CAB-22-SUB-0591 on his travel, from 4 to 14 September 2022, to travel to: Canberra, Australia; Washington DC, the United States of America; Ottawa, Canada; and London, the United Kingdom for bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet