

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Justice

Proactive release – report on overseas travel: United States of America, 11 April 2019 – 15 April 2019

Date of issue: 26 September 2019

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted.

No.	Document	Comments
1	Report on overseas travel: United States of America, 11 April 2019 – 15 April 2019 <i>Cabinet paper</i> Office of the Minister of Justice	Some information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(j) of the OIA, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.
2	Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little <i>Cabinet minute</i> Cabinet Office	Released in full.

Chair
Cabinet

**REPORT ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 11 APRIL
2019 – 15 APRIL 2019**

Proposal

1. I recommend that Cabinet notes this report on my travel to the United States from Thursday 11 April 2019 to Monday 15 April 2019, in order to represent New Zealand at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Ministerial Meeting.

Report

2. The purpose of the travel was represent New Zealand at the FATF meeting.
3. At the meeting, Ministers agreed:
 - 3.1. an open-ended Mandate for the FATF and its role leading global action to counter money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The adoption of an open-ended mandate, on the 30th anniversary of the FATF, reflects the fact that these threats are enduring concerns for the integrity of the financial system, and that a sustained political commitment to fight money laundering, terrorist financing, and proliferation financing is required;
 - 3.2. to greater ministerial engagement and support for FATF through regular and more frequent ministerial-level meetings, and by extending the term of the FATF Presidency, and by agreeing to a new funding model for the organisation. FATF's new mandate recognises the need for FATF to continue to lead decisive, co-ordinated and effective global action to counter the threats of the abuse of the financial system by criminals and terrorists, and strengthens its capacity to respond to these threats that all countries face;
 - 3.3. to increase Ministerial meeting frequency to biennially, instead of decennially as has been the case for the lifetime of the FATF.

4. There was strong interest from other attending jurisdictions in hearing New Zealand's perspectives, following the horrific terrorist attack in Christchurch on 15 March 2019. US Attorney-General William Barr made time in his diary to see me at short notice, as did several of President Donald Trump's senior staff at the White House.
5. Additionally I had notable bilateral meetings with:
 - 5.1. Taro Aso, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for Japan;
 - 5.2. Abdullatif bin Rahid Al Zayani, Secretary General for the Gulf Cooperation Council;
 - 5.3. Marshall Billingslea, Assistant Treasury Security for Terrorist Financing for the USA;
 - 5.4. Jörg Kukies, Deputy Minister of Finance for Germany;
 - 5.5. Siv Jensen, Minister of Finance for Norway.

6.

s9(2)(j)



Proactive release

7. It is proposed that this paper is proactively released in accordance with CO (18) 4 after 30 business days, with the exception of paragraph 6 which should be withheld subject to section 9(2)(j) of the Official Information Act 1982 (*"withholding of the information is necessary to— enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations"*).

Recommendations

8. The Minister of Justice recommends that Cabinet:

8.1. **NOTE** this report;

8.2. **NOTE** that this paper will be proactively released in accordance with CO (18) 4 after 30 business days, with the exception of paragraph 6.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice

Date: 16 April 2019

RELEASED BY THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE



Cabinet

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.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Andrew Little

Portfolio Justice

On 8 April 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Andrew Little from New Zealand, from 11 to 15 April 2019, to travel to the United States of America, to represent New Zealand at the Financial Action Task Force Ministerial Meeting;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$36,307 for travel expenses for the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **agreed** that his absence:
 - 4.1 Hon David Parker act as Minister of Justice and Minister for Courts;
 - 4.2 Hon Stuart Nash act as Minister Responsible for the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and Minister Responsible for the GCSB;
 - 4.3 Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry;
 - 4.4 Hon Kelvin Davis act as Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations;
- 5 **noted** that House Leave has been approved.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Andrew Little