



Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

Minute of Decision

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Proposal to Increase New Zealand's Contribution to Afghanistan

Portfolio Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 15 August 2017, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee:

- 1 **noted** the deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan and the need to strengthen and refocus international support to Afghan forces;
- 2 [REDACTED] s6(a)
- 3 **noted** that the United States has made a request on behalf of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation for New Zealand to increase our contribution in Afghanistan by an additional two personnel to Resolute Support Mission Headquarters in Kabul;
- 4 **agreed** to increase New Zealand's contribution by an additional two staff officers to Resolute Support Mission Headquarters out to 30 June 2019;
- 5 **noted** that the United Kingdom has separately requested that New Zealand provide an additional person to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy as a Physical Training Instructor Mentor;
- 6 **agreed** to increase our contribution to the Afghan National Army Officer Academy by an additional person out to 30 June 2018;
- 7 [REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 8 [REDACTED] s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 9 **agreed** that the international arrangements for New Zealand's participation in the Resolute Support Mission be amended to reflect the increase in personnel;
- 10 **noted** the total estimated cost of the deployments is assessed as \$0.694 million;
- 11 **noted** that there is a shortfall of \$0.389 million in 2017/18 and \$0.305 million in 2018/19 that is not able to be met within existing baselines;

- 12 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraphs 4 and 6 above with a corresponding impact on the operating balance;

Vote Defence Force Minister of Defence	NZ \$m – increase / (decrease)				
	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 & out-years
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Operations Contributing to New Zealand's Security, Stability and Interests MCA			-	-	-
Departmental Output Expense: Military Operations in Support of a Rules-Based International Order (funded by revenue Crown)	0.389	0.305			

- 13 **agreed** that the additional expenses required in 2017/18 and 2018/19, under paragraph 12 above, be a charge against the tagged Operating Contingency established as part of Budget 17 for Military Operations in Support of a Rules-based International Order;
- 14 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2017/18 above be included in the 2017/18 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Gerry Brownlee (Chair)
Hon Simon Bridges
Hon Christopher Finlayson QC
Hon Michael Woodhouse
Hon Nathan Guy
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Paul Goldsmith

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister of Defence

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet