

HON Paul Goldsmith, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

MINISTERIAL OVERSEAS TRAVEL 5 to 10 July 2026

September 2026

This publication provides the Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Chris Penk travel over the period 5 to 10 July to Türkiye to attend the NATO Summit.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the June 2026 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk – May/June 2026* [CAB-26-SUB-0200 and CAB-26-MIN-0200]
- the July 2026 Cabinet paper and associated minute of decision *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk – May/June 2026* [CAB-26-SUB-0238 and CAB-26-MIN-0238]

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at:

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Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- The security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- The entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)]



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 Chris Penk – July 2026

Portfolio **Defence**

On 22 June 2026, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Chris Penk from New Zealand, from 5 to 10 July 2026, to travel to Ankara, Türkiye to attend the NATO Summit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by two members of staff, one of whose costs will be met by the Ministry of Defence;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$48,513 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose costs will be met by their respective agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mark Mitchell act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Veterans;
 - 5.2 Hon James Meager act as Minister for Building and Construction and Minister for Space;
 - 5.3 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Minister Responsible for the GCSB and NZSIS;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk – July 2026

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Türkiye from 5 -10 July to represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit in Ankara.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

NATO Summit

- 3 The NATO Summit in Ankara marks the fifth successive year that the Indo-Pacific partners have been invited to join NATO partners at their Summit.^{s6(a)}
[REDACTED] and the interlinked nature of security in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions.
- 4 Attendance at the NATO Summit will demonstrate New Zealand's commitment to the international rules-based system, and provide an opportunity to highlight our ongoing contributions to shared security challenges. It will also provide an opportunity to strengthen existing relationships with key NATO and Indo-Pacific partners.
- 5 During the Summit, I will attend a formal dinner of Defence Ministers, and participate in the NATO Summit Defence Industry Forum, alongside a representative from New Zealand's industry. I will also represent the Prime Minister as New Zealand's Head of Delegation and attend a meeting between IP4 representatives and the NATO Secretary-General.

Ministerial Party

- 6 I would be accompanied by one member of staff from my Office (travel costs met by Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel), and my Defence Private Secretary (travel costs met by Vote Defence).
- 7 Officials from the Ministry of Defence and New Zealand Defence Force would also accompany me at departmental cost.

Travel Costs

- 8 The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff members travel) are:

Airfares:	\$34,500.00
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Accommodation:	\$9,250.00
Other expenses:	\$2,000.00
Contingency (5%):	\$2,763.00
Total:	\$ 48,513.00

Acting Ministers

9 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

- 9.1 Defence: Hon Mark Mitchell
- 9.2 Building and Construction: Hon James Meager
- 9.3 Veterans: Hon Mark Mitchell
- 9.4 GCSB and NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.5 Space: Hon James Meager

Proactive release

10 This paper will be proactively released on the Ministry of Defence's website. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from approximately 5-10 July, to travel to Türkiye for the NATO Summit;
- 2 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office;
- 3 **note** that I will be accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force, whose costs will be met by departmental budgets;
- 4 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$48,513.00 for my travel expenses and a member of staff from my office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 5 **agree** that in my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
 - 5.1 Defence: Hon Mark Mitchell
 - 5.2 Building and Construction: Hon James Meager
 - 5.3 Veterans: Hon Mark Mitchell
 - 5.4 GCSB and NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 5.5 Space: Hon James Meager

- 6 **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Defence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Penk
Minister of Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk – July 2026

Portfolio

Defence

On 27 July 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Chris Penk under CAB-26-SUB-0238 on his travel, from 5 to 10 July 2026, to Ankara, Türkiye to attend the NATO Summit.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Chris Penk

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel from 5-10 July 2026 to Ankara, Türkiye to represent New Zealand at the NATO Summit in my capacity as Minister of Defence.

Report

- 1 This year's NATO Summit was hosted by Türkiye in Ankara, and took place over 7-8 July 2026, convening Heads of State, Ministers of Defence, and Ministers of Foreign Affairs to address the most pressing international security challenges. This year's Summit focused on three key themes: defence industry integration and revitalisation, support to Ukraine, and defence investment.
- 2 As a member of the Indo-Pacific Four, alongside Australia, Japan and South Korea, New Zealand was invited to attend the Summit as a key partner to NATO at both the Leader-level and Defence Minister-level.
- 3 Key elements of my programme included attendance at the NATO Defence Industry Forum, a reception for NATO and IP4 Defence Ministers, a formal working dinner for NATO and IP4 Defence Ministers, and representing the Prime Minister at a meeting between IP4 leaders and the NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte.

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The Summit also provided excellent opportunities to engage with the following key counterparts:

Australian Minister for Defence Industry Pat Conroy

Canadian Minister of National Defence David McGuinty

EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Kaja Kallas

Finnish Minister of Defence Antti Häkkinen

French Minister of the Armed Forces Catherine Vautrin
German Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius
Italian Minister of Defence Guido Crosetto
Japanese Minister of Defence Shinjiro Koizumi
Korean President Lee Jae-myung
Korean Minister of National Defense Anu Gyu-back
NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte
NATO Deputy Secretary General Radmila Shekerinska
Netherlands Minister of Defence Dilan Yeşilgöz-Zegerius
Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Władysław
Kosiniak-Kamysz
Turkish Minister of National Defence Yaşar Güler
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy
United Kingdom Secretary of State for Defence Dan Jarvis

- 7 I also attended the NATO Defence Industry Forum alongside representatives from New Zealand's own defence industry. The Forum provided a key opportunity to better understand how our industry can work more closely with NATO partners, and their respective industry representatives.

Proactive release

- 8 This paper will be proactively released, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Penk
Minister of Defence