

HON Judith Collins KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ministerial Overseas Travel: Japan December 2025

March 2026

This publication provides the Cabinet Minutes of Decision and submissions *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025* and *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025*. This material approves travel and reports back to Cabinet on the Minister of Defence's travel to Japan in order to sign the *Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement* and the *Information Sharing Agreement* between New Zealand and Japan.

The pack comprises the following documents:

- the Cabinet paper and associated Minute of Decision: *Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025* [CAB-25-MIN-0439 and CAB-25-SUB-0439], and
- the Cabinet paper and associated Minute of Decision: *Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025* [CAB-26-MIN-0004 and CAB-26-SUB-0004].

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: www.defence.govt.nz/publications.

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document

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 or any agency of such a Government [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 Judith Collins KC – December 2025

Portfolio Defence

On 8 December 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Judith Collins KC from New Zealand, from 18 to 20 December 2025, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, to travel to Tokyo, Japan to sign the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement between New Zealand and Japan;
- 2 **agreed** that she 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 \$26,160.75 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that she 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 agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Attorney-General, Minister Responsible for the GCSB and Minister Responsible for the NZSIS;
 - 5.2 Hon Chris Penk act as Minister of Defence and Minister for Space;
 - 5.3 Hon James Meager act as Minister for Digitising Government and Minister for the Public Service;
- 6 **noted** that leave from the House has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Japan from 18 December – 20 December to sign the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), in my capacity as Minister of Defence.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 I will travel to Tokyo, Japan to sign the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between New Zealand and Japan, alongside the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs. The ACSA will establish a reciprocal framework for logistical support between the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces (JSDF).
- 4 A Ministerial visit to Japan reaffirms our commitment to shared strategic priorities, as well as our bilateral defence cooperation. The ACSA is a milestone agreement between our defence forces, and will significantly reduce administrative burdens. It will also enable more flexible and efficient defence cooperation throughout the Indo-Pacific.
- 5 While in Tokyo, I will also sign the Information Security Agreement (ISA) which will strengthen mechanisms for secure information exchange between New Zealand and Japan, reducing administrative barriers and enhancing interoperability between our national security systems. I will also meet with my Defence Ministerial counterpart.

Ministerial Party

- 6 I will 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 A delegation from the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force will also accompany me at departmental cost.

Travel Costs

- 8 The estimated costs of the travel (including my staff member's travel) are:

Airfares:	\$19,300.00
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Accommodation:	\$1,115.00
Meals and other expenses	\$1,000.00
Formal Lunch	\$1,500.00
Translator services	\$2,000.00
Contingency (5%)	\$1,245.75
Total:	\$26,160.75

Acting Ministers

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

- 9.1 Attorney-General: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
- 9.3 Digitising Government: Hon James Meager
- 9.4 GCSB: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.5 NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.6 Public Service: Hon James Meager
- 9.7 Space: Hon Chris Penk

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 18 December – 20 December, to travel to Japan;
- 2 **note** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip;
- 3 **agree** that I be accompanied by two members of staff from my office;
- 4 **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;
- 5 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$26,160.75 for my travel expenses and a member of staff from my office, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];

- 6 **agree** that in my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- 6.1 Attorney-General: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
 - 6.3 Digitising Government: Hon James Meager
 - 6.4 GCSB: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.5 NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
 - 6.6 Public Service: Hon James Meager
 - 6.7 Space: Hon Chris Penk.
- 7 **note** that this Cabinet paper will be proactively released following return to New Zealand by the Ministry of Defence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC
Minister of Defence

Released by the Minister of Defence



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – December 2025

Portfolios **Defence / NZSIS**

On 27 January 2026, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Judith Collins KC under CAB-26-SUB-0004 on her travel, from 18 to 20 December 2025, to Tokyo, Japan to sign the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement and the Information Sharing Agreement between New Zealand and Japan.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister for Defence
Office of the Minister Responsible for NZSIS
Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC– December 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Tokyo, Japan from 18 December to 20 December to sign the Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA) and the Information Sharing Agreement (ISA).

Report

1 My visit to Tokyo to sign the ACSA and ISA also provided an opportunity to have bilateral meetings with my Defence counterpart, Minister Koizumi, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister Motegi.

2 [Redacted] s6(a)

3 [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

4 [Redacted] s6(a), s6(b)(i)

5 The signing of the ACSA and ISA represents a key milestone for our bilateral relationship with Japan, [Redacted] s6(a)
[Redacted] s, [Redacted] so(a)

6 While in Tokyo I also placed a wreath during my visit to the Ministry of Defense Headquarters at Ichigaya, and received an honour guard from Japanese Self-Defense Force personnel. I also met with New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed to Japan.

Proactive release

- 7 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.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Defence
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS

Released by the Minister of Defence