

HON JUDITH COLLINS, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – October/November 2025

February 2026

This publication provides the October 2025 Cabinet proposal and report back on Hon Judith Collins KC's travel over the period 30 October to 3 November 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0366 and CAB-25-MIN-0459] to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM+).

The pack comprises the following documents:

- Hon Judith Collins KC's travel over the period 30 October to 3 November 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0366 and CAB-25-MIN-0459]

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. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2) of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

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 the basis of confidence by the Government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)].

Information is also withheld in order to:

- protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied the information [section 9(2)(b)(ii)]
- maintain the constitutional conventions for the timing being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials [section 9(2)(f)(iv)]
- maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty [section 9(2)(g)(i)]
- enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations [section 9(2)(j)].



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 – October/November 2025

Portfolio Defence

On 20 October 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Judith Collins KC from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 30 October to 3 November 2025, to travel to Malaysia to attend the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus;
- 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 \$28,350 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 respective agencies;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Paul Goldsmith act as Attorney-General, Minister of Defence, Minister Responsible for the GCSB and Minister Responsible for the NZSIS;
 - 5.2 Hon James Meager act as Minister for Digitising Government, Minister for the Public Service and Minister for Space;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during her absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – October 2025

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Malaysia from 30 October – 3 November to attend the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), under my Defence portfolio.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 I will travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the 12th ADMM-Plus. This year's meeting will be hosted in Malaysia, in its capacity as 2025 ASEAN Chair.
- 4 ADMM-Plus is the most significant ASEAN defence meeting and is the principal forum for New Zealand Defence to engage multilaterally in Asia. Established in 2010 and conducted annually, the ADMM-Plus aims to enhance regional security through dialogue and practical military-to-military.
- 5 On the margins of ADMM-Plus, this trip will also provide the opportunity to hold bilateral meetings with counterparts from member countries, and advance New Zealand's interests in the Southeast Asian region.

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:	\$20,000
Accommodation:	\$4,000
Meals	\$1,000
Other expenses	\$2,000

Contingency (5%)	\$1,350
Total:	\$28,350

Acting Ministers

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

- 9.1.1 Attorney-General: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.1.2 Defence: Hon Chris Penk
- 9.1.3 Digitising Government: Hon James Meager
- 9.1.4 GCSB: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.1.5 NZSIS: Hon Paul Goldsmith
- 9.1.6 Public Service: Hon James Meager
- 9.1.7 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, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from approximately 30 October – 3 November, to travel to Malaysia;
- 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 \$28,350 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 James Meager
- 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 – October / November 2025

Portfolio Defence

On 15 December 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Judith Collins KC under CAB-25-SUB-0459 on her travel, from 30 October to 3 November 2025, to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to attend the 12th Association of South East Asian Nations Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus.

Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet

Released by the Minister of Defence

Office of the Minister of Defence

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Judith Collins KC – October-November 2025

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 30 October to 3 November to attend the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus).

Report

- 1 My visit to Malaysia provided an opportunity to attend the 12th ADMM-Plus meeting as the Ministerial representative for New Zealand, and meet with a number of Defence counterparts. A full list of who I met with is as follows:
 - 1.1 Philippines: Secretary of National Defense, Gilberto Teodoro Jr
 - 1.2 Viet Nam: Minister of Defence, Phan Van Giang
 - 1.3 ASEAN Secretary General: Dr Kao Kim Hourn
 - 1.4 Malaysia: Minister of Defence, Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin
 - 1.5 Indonesia: Minister of Defense, Dr Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin
 - 1.6 Japan: Minister of Defense, Shinjiro Koizumi
 - 1.7 China: Minister of National Defense, Admiral Dong Jun
 - 1.8 I also had a number of discussions with my counterparts on the margins of the meeting, including United States' Secretary of War, Pete Hegseth; Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles; Singapore's National Defense Minister Chan Chun Sing; India's Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh; and the Republic of Korea's Minister of National Defense Ahn Gyu-back.
- 2 I also visited the Tugu Negara National Monument, which pays tribute to soldiers killed in combat during Malaysia's battle for freedom during World War II and the Malayan Emergency from 1948-1960.

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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