Cabinet Office circular

CO (19) 4: Cabinet committees: Terms of Reference and Membership

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Intended for:
All Ministers
All Chief Executives
Chief of Staff, Prime Minister's Office
All Senior Private Secretaries
All Private Secretaries
Chief Parliamentary Counsel

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Cabinet committee membership has been updated in this circular in line with the updated Ministerial List published 22 July 2020.

1  The Prime Minister has agreed to changes to the membership of Cabinet committees to take account of the updates to Ministerial responsibilities that took place on 27 June and 3 July 2019. An amended list of the membership of Cabinet committees is attached for your information.

2  A number of amendments have also been made to the terms of reference for the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV), the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee (GOV), and the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC).

Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet
To consider policy issues, appointments, bills, and regulations, and other matters that require decisions before the next scheduled applicable Cabinet committee meeting, when other committees are not meeting and the House of Representatives is adjourned. CBC will meet only on a strictly if required basis.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon James Shaw

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

Meets during non-sitting weeks if required

Cabinet Priorities Committee (CPC)

- Consider overall government priorities and major strategic issues.
- Consider significant issues as determined by the Prime Minister or Cabinet. Implementation aspects of these issues will be considered by the appropriate committee, once major policy directions have been set.
- Responsible for the overall co-ordination and delivery of the government’s priorities.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis

Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage
Fletcher Tabuteau, MP

Relevant Portfolios

ACC
Agriculture
Biosecurity
Broadcasting, Communications, and Digital Media
Building and Construction
Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Customs
Economic Development
Energy and Resources
Environment
Employment
Finance
Fisheries
Food Safety
Forestry
Greater Christchurch Regeneration
Housing
Immigration
Infrastructure
Land Information
Local Government
Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Māori Development
Pike River
Racing
Regional Economic Development
Research, Science and Innovation
Revenue
Rural Communities
Small Business
Statistics
State Owned Enterprises
Tourism
Trade and Export Growth
Transport
Urban Development
Workplace Relations and Safety

Frequency

Meets weekly during sitting weeks
Māori Development
Regional Economic Development
Research, Science and Innovation
Transport

Frequency
Meets fortnightly during sitting weeks

Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee (ERS)

- Oversight of the national security and intelligence sector, and to consider strategic, policy and legislative matters relating to the sector, foreign affairs, defence (excluding Defence procurement), resilience, and significant hazards.
- Co-ordinate and direct national responses to major crises or circumstances affecting national security (either domestic or international).
- Ensure co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.

ERS, or a subcommittee of ERS as determined by the Prime Minister, will have Power to Act where the need for urgent action and/or operational or security considerations require it.

Membership

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Deputy Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters(Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Ron Mark

With the addition of the relevant portfolio Minister as appropriate.

Relevant Portfolios
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Ron Mark
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon James Shaw
Hon Julie Anne Genter

Relevant Portfolios

- Corrections
- Civil Defence
- Defence
- Education
- Finance
- Government Digital Services
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Internal Affairs
- Local Government
- Revenue
- Regional Economic Development
- State Owned Enterprises
- State Services
- Statistics
- Transport

Frequency

Meets fortnightly during sitting weeks

Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG)
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis (Chair)
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Deputy Chair)
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Eugenie Sage

Relevant Portfolios

Agriculture
Attorney-General
Conservation
Economic Development
Environment
Fisheries
Land Information
Local Government
Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
Māori Development
Regional Economic Development
Rural Communities
Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Whānau Ora

Frequency
Meets monthly during sitting weeks

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC)

- Consider strategic and policy matters relating to social wellbeing to support a fair and dignified standard of living for all New Zealanders, including education, health, justice, income support, access to warm, dry homes, public housing and residential tenancy issues, homelessness, and child poverty reduction.

- Ensure co-ordination and delivery of relevant government priorities and monitor the achievement of relevant goals and outcomes.
Pacific Peoples
Police
Rural Communities
Seniors
Social Development
Sport and Recreation
Veterans
Whanau Ora
Women
Youth

Frequency
Meets weekly during sitting weeks

COVID-19 Ministerial Group

- This Ministerial Group has been established by Cabinet to co-ordinate and direct the government response to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- *The Ministerial Group has Power to Act to take decisions on the government response to COVID-19.*

Membership

- Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
- Rt Hon Winston Peters (Deputy Chair)
- Hon Kelvin Davis
- Hon Grant Robertson
- Hon Chris Hipkins
- Hon Carmel Sepuloni
- Hon James Shaw

Relevant Portfolios

All portfolios

Frequency

The Ministerial Group will meet as required by teleconference and email.