



## Proactive Release

Date: 19 December 2025

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Emergency Management:

Title of Papers	Reference
Minute of Decision - Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell – September 2025	CAB-25-MIN-0364
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell – September 2025	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell – September 2025

**Portfolio**                      **Emergency Management and Recovery**

On 20 October 2025, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Mark Mitchell under CAB-25-SUB-0364, on Hon Scott Simpson's travel, from 16 to 23 September 2025, to the United Kingdom for portfolio-related meetings.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the  
Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery

Office of the Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery  
Chair, Cabinet

**Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Scott Simpson (on behalf of Hon Mark Mitchell)**

1. I recommend that Cabinet note this report on Hon Scott Simpson's travel on behalf of my Emergency Management and Recovery portfolio to the United Kingdom, from 16 to 23 September 2025.
2. Minister Simpson – alongside representatives from the Insurance Council of New Zealand (ICNZ), and National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) CEO Dave Gawn – met with a range of London-based reinsurance firms to build confidence in the New Zealand insurance market and our approach to climate adaptation and natural hazard resilience.
3. Minister Simpson also met with the Competition and Markets Authority to compare approaches to regulating markets and ensuring competition; the UK Cabinet Office to discuss their approach to emergency management; and New Zealand tech firm Auror.
4. Minister Simpson represented New Zealand at the Black Ferns v. Canada women's rugby world cup semi-final match in Bristol, and at the 85-year anniversary service of the Battle of Britain at Westminster Abbey.
5. The primary objectives for the visit were achieved. Companies visited were left in no doubt as to the Government's view of the importance of the reinsurance market for New Zealand, as well as the adaptation measures that are under way to improve our insurability.

**Report**

6. The reinsurer meetings were organised by the ICNZ. ICNZ's CEO Kris Faafoi and several of its board and constituent members (AIG, Suncorp, Tower, Farmers Mutual Group) attended these meetings alongside Minister Simpson. Minister Simpson met with Swiss Re, Aon, and Lloyd's of London. The value of the New Zealand market to the reinsurers was clear throughout the meetings, with Lloyd's explaining that New Zealand is the fifth largest premium market for them.
7. Reinsurers are particularly focused on the US market as representing the key peril for the global reinsurance market. Companies anticipate USD \$100 billion in natural disaster claims each year. The value of adaptation measures and of building public understanding of natural disaster risk were key themes across all discussions.
8. Linked to the visit by Minister Simpson, ICNZ also organised representation from New Zealand opposition parties to provide assurance that there was a bipartisan consensus in New Zealand on maintaining access to affordable insurance products for New Zealanders, and the requisite adaptation and emergency management efforts that underpin it.

### **Competition Markets Authority**

9. Minister Simpson called on the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to discuss New Zealand's planned competition reforms, partially modelled on UK approaches. This discussion confirmed that New Zealand and the UK face similar regulatory goals.

### **COBR/Emergency Management**

10. The Minister also called upon the Cabinet Office National Security Coordination Office (i.e. COBR) to better understand the UK Government's response mechanisms for national emergency situations. COBR provides examples of the types of capabilities and capacities New Zealand may wish develop as part of potential investments through the Emergency Management System Improvement Programme (EMSIP), provisionally approved by Cabinet.

### **Meeting with Auror**

11. Minister Simpson informally met with the New Zealand loss prevention technology company, Auror, to discuss their success expanding into the UK market. The Minister and Auror CEO Phil Thompson discussed whether Auror products could in future be suitable for fraud prevention in addition to addressing retail crime (its current focus).

### **Public diplomacy contribution**

12. While in the UK, the Minister also attended the commemoration of the 85-year anniversary of the Battle of Britain at Westminster Abbey and represented the Government at the Women's Rugby World Cup semi-final match between Canada and New Zealand.

### **Proactive release**

13. This paper will be proactively released, with appropriate redactions consistent with the Official Information Act.

### **Recommendation**

I recommend that Cabinet **note** this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Mark Mitchell

Minister of Emergency Management and Recovery