



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 (the Royal Commission): Extension to the Final Report Back

Portfolio Internal Affairs

On 15 April 2020, the Cabinet Business Committee, in accordance with the Power to Act authorised by Cabinet [CAB-20-MIN-0145]:

- 1 **noted** that on 10 November 2019, Cabinet approved additional funding of \$3.000 million and a revised final report back date of 30 April 2020 [CAB-19-MIN-0584];
- 2 **noted** that the Royal Commission has advised that it will be unable to deliver its report by 30 April 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic has created additional uncertainty regarding when the Royal Commission will be able to deliver its final report;
- 3 **noted** that there are a number of considerations when deciding on an extension date, including:
 - 3.1 the need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic context;
 - 3.2 the time between the attack and the Inquiry report;
 - 3.3 the timeframes for additional, system-wide improvements necessary following the attack; and,
 - 3.4 the cost of an extension;
- 4 **noted** that on balance amending the terms of reference to set a report date of 31 July 2020 and to allow the Minister of Internal Affairs to vary that date for the final report is the preferred option;
- 5 **agreed** to amend the terms of reference for the Royal Commission so that the reporting date will be 31 July 2020, or such earlier or later date as may be determined by the Minister of Internal Affairs, in consultation with the Attorney-General, to be feasible and appropriate, after consultation with the Chair of the Royal Commission;
- 6 **noted** that additional funding required by the Royal Commission will be met from Departmental of Internal Affairs (DIA) baselines until the end of May 2020;
- 7 **s9(2)(f)(iv) Official Information Act 1982**

s9(2)(f)(iv) Official Information Act 1982 - to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

- 8 s9(2)(f)(iv) Official Information Act 1982
- 9 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 Amendment Order 2020 [PCO 22873/3.0], made under the authority of the Letters Patent and section 6 of the Inquiries Act, to give effect to paragraph 5 above;
- 10 **noted** that a waiver to the 28-day rule has been sought on the grounds that changes are required prior to the expiry of the Royal Commission's current reporting date of 30 April 2020;
- 11 **agreed** to a waiver of the 28-day rule;
- 12 **noted** that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 Amendment Order 2020 will come into force on 24 April 2020.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Ron Mark
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon James Shaw

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Treasury
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Ministry of Health
New Zealand Police
Ministry for Primary Industries