



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

CAB Min (04) 8/5

COPY No 10 of 10

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Prime Minister
Minister of Defence

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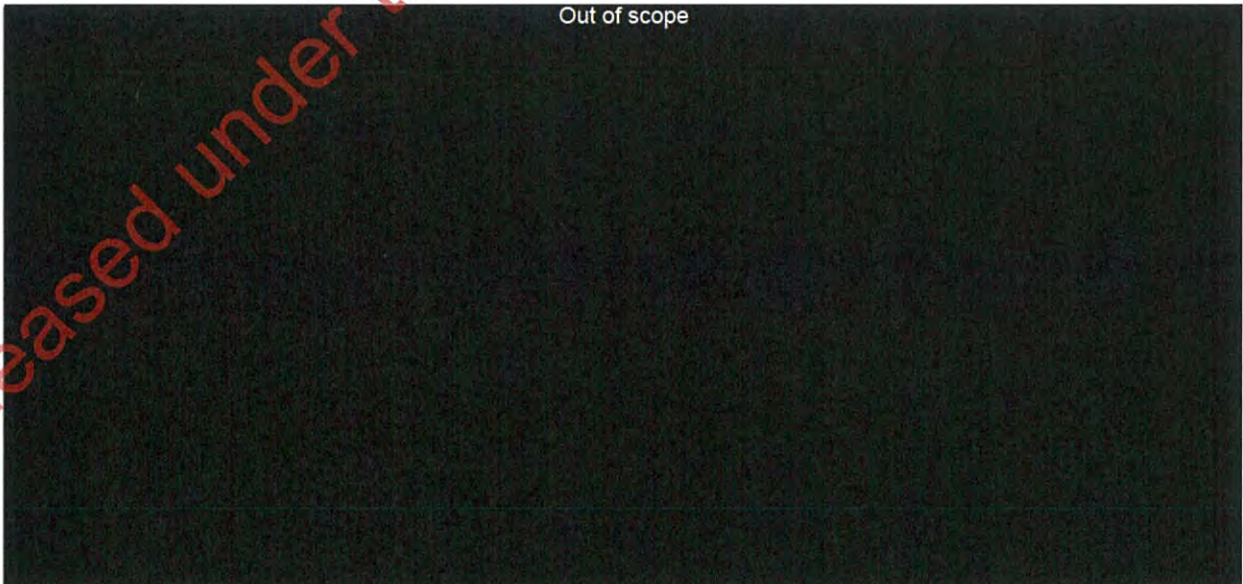
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- Prime Minister
- Deputy Prime Minister
- Minister of Finance
- Hon Jim Anderton
- Minister for Social Development and Employment
- Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Controller and Auditor-General
- Secretary, ERD

New Zealand Defence Force Deployments: Decisions by Group of Ministers with Power to Act

On 15 March 2004, Cabinet:

Previous Cabinet Decisions

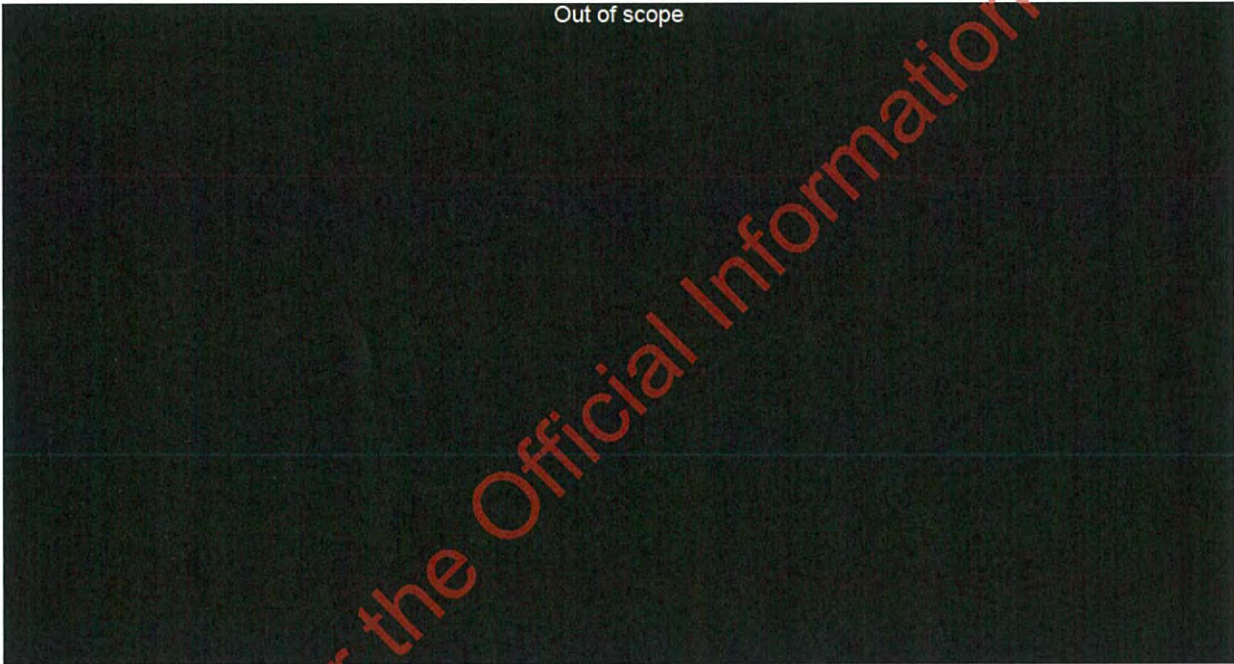


Out of scope

1.2 noted that on 18 February 2004 Ministers with Power to Act also agreed that the current deployment of the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan should continue for an additional 12 months;

- 1.3 noted that on 7 July 2003 Cabinet approved the deployment of up to 100 NZDF personnel to set up and lead the Bamian PRT in Afghanistan for 12 months, from late September 2003, with a possible extension of a further 12 months [CAB Min (03) 23/3A];
- 1.4 noted that the New Zealand PRT is successfully progressing its three key objectives of creating a secure operating environment, extending the authority of the central government, and undertaking reconstruction;
- 1.5 agreed that the impact and effectiveness of the PRT would be enhanced by extending the deployment for an extra 12 months;
- 1.6 authorised an extension to the PRT for 12 months, from September 2004, at a cost of \$25.041 million;

[CAB Min (04) 6/18]



Decisions by Ministers with Power to Act

3 noted that on 1 March 2004 the group of Ministers with Power to Act (Prime Minister, Minister of Finance, Hon Jim Anderton, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Minister of Defence) [CAB Min (02) 34/17]:

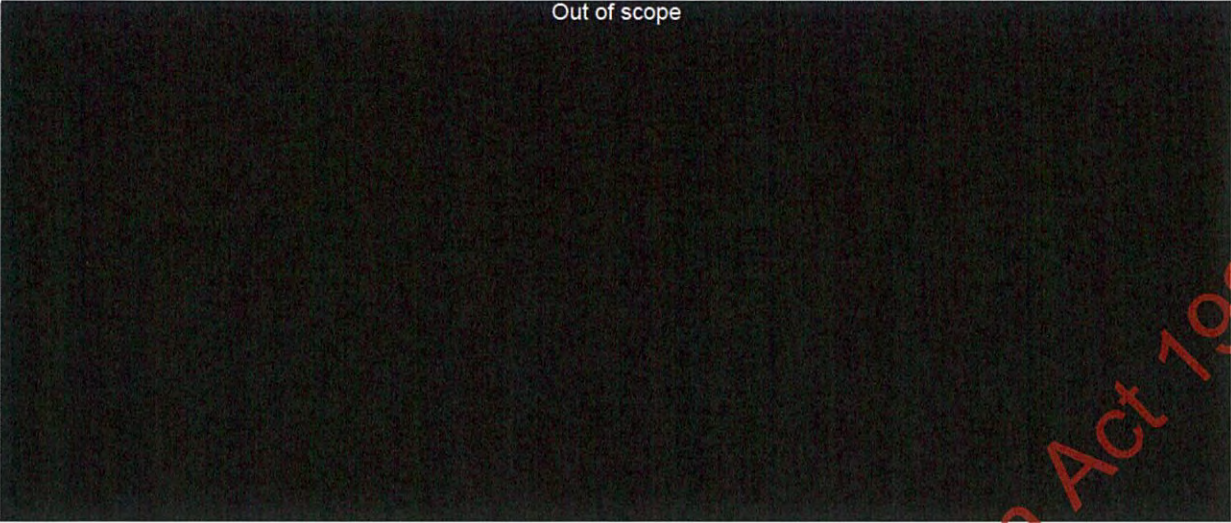
3.1 noted that New Zealand's contribution remains important in addressing threats from terrorism, extending the authority and legitimacy of central government in Afghanistan, enabling reconstruction and development and supporting preparations for elections, [redacted]

Out of scope

3.2 agreed that extending New Zealand's commitment in Afghanistan at this time would contribute to a more secure environment and thereby enhance nation building;

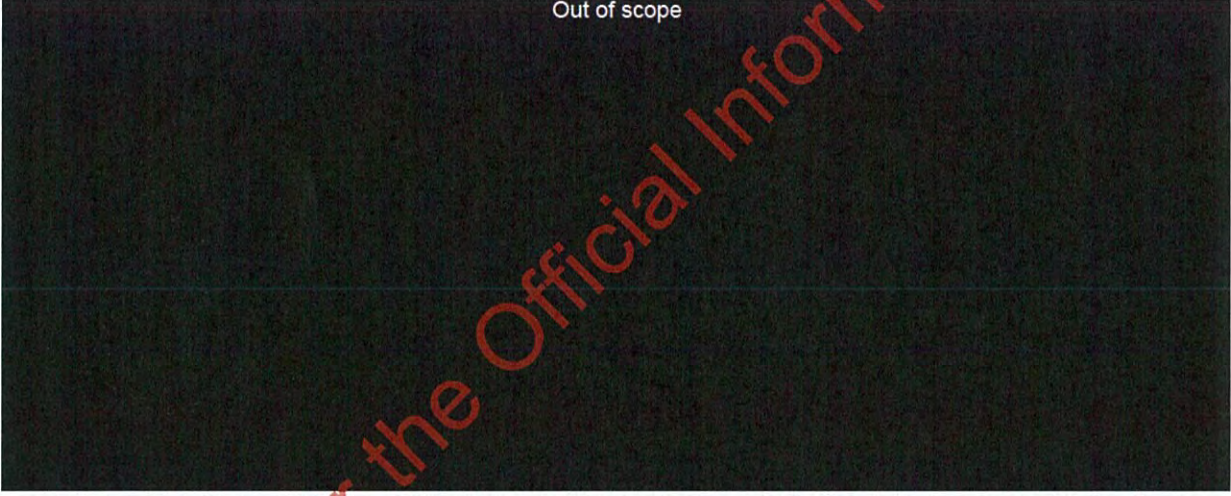
Out of scope

Out of scope




3.8 noted that the overall threat to NZDF personnel operating in Afghanistan is HIGH. New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) casualties are possible. Opposition forces in Afghanistan are not able to engage coalition forces in open combat directly but that they are determined to carry on armed operations. There is an ongoing threat from improvised explosive devices, suicide bombers and unguided rocket attacks.

Out of scope



Out of scope



Vote Social Development Benefits and Other Unrequited Expenses: Defence Force Allowances						
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Out of scope

PRT Afghanistan	-	4.344	0.408	-	-	
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Out of scope

3.13 agreed that the increase in appropriations of **Out of scope** (GST inclusive) be included in the 2003/04 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, these expenses be met from Imprest Supply.

Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (04) 89

Secretary's Note: This minute provides a consolidated record of the recent decisions by Cabinet and Ministers with Power to Act on NZDF deployments associated with Iraq, Afghanistan and Operation Enduring Freedom.

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