



# Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee

## Minute of Decision

ERD Min (12) 9/3

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### Scope of PRT Operations and Focus until April 2013

Portfolios: Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 6 December 2012, the Cabinet External Relations and Defence Committee:

- 1 noted that on 3 September 2012, Cabinet:
  - 1.1 agreed to the withdrawal of the New Zealand-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) from Bamyán in April 2013;
  - 1.2 noted that, in the final months in Bamyán, the PRT would focus on:
    - 1.2.1 implementing its withdrawal from Kiwi Base;
    - 1.2.2 training and mentoring local security forces (the Afghan National Police and the National Directorate of Security);
    - 1.2.3 progressing the PRT's development projects;
- [CAB Min (12) 31/11]
- 2 noted that:
  - 2.1 the paper considered by Cabinet on 3 September 2012 [EGI (12) 480] did not explicitly identify an additional baseline task of the PRT – operations which support the PRT's protection;
  - 2.2 as a consequence, an information gap has been identified between the key PRT tasks agreed by Cabinet (paragraph 1 above) and some of the PRT's subsequent operations in support of its protection;
- 3 noted that, to directly support this force protection task, the PRT is providing support to Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) pre-planned operations to reduce the likelihood of future insurgent attacks against the PRT between now and April 2013;
- 4 noted that, in all instances where the PRT is preparing to provide support to a pre-planned ANSF operation that is likely to incur contact between the ANSF (and possibly the PRT) and insurgents, and/or arrest or detention of suspected insurgents, the Minister of Defence will be informed in writing in advance, copied to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chair of ODESC;

- 5 noted that as the PRT's withdrawal approaches, it will progressively stop conducting agreed tasks, and that a forthcoming oral briefing will provide Ministers with further information on this process.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

Reference: ERD (12) 45

**Present:**

Hon Bill English  
Hon Steven Joyce  
Hon David Carter  
Hon Murray McCully (Chair)  
Hon Anne Tolley  
Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman  
Hon Nathan Guy

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Distribution:**

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Chief Executive, DPMC  
Director, PAG, DPMC  
Ben King, DPMC  
Secretary to the Treasury  
Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
John Allen, Chief Executive, MFAT  
Secretary of Defence  
Chief of Defence Force

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