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PROTECTING NEW ZEALAND'S BORDER

25 October 2017

Hon Meka Whaitiri
Minister of Customs
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe e te Rangatira Minita Meka Whaitiri

Briefing Pack for the Incoming Minister of Customs

Congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Customs.

The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) has a proud history of serving New Zealand. Established in 1840, Customs is the country's oldest government department, with a significant amount of experience in striking the balance between border protection and international trade facilitation. I believe that our history illustrates an organisation that:

- is adaptive and committed to the delivery of customer-focused public services at the New Zealand border
- works effectively with a wide range of international, private sector and government organisations to promote and maintain the integrity and efficiency of the New Zealand border
- provides the government with trusted border-related strategic thinking, policy/operational advice, and international negotiation skills
- provides New Zealand with law enforcement, revenue collection, and processing services.

We are committed and looking forward to supporting you in advancing the new Government's objectives for New Zealand's border services.

I would like to take the earliest opportunity, at your convenience, to discuss how we can deliver on your priorities for Customs and ensure that we are providing you with the best possible support.

The attached general Briefing for the Incoming Minister of Customs introduces you to the Customs portfolio, and gives an indication of the challenges and opportunities ahead. It provides an overview of the work of Customs and the wider border environment, as well as your responsibilities as Minister of Customs. It also highlights some of the key issues that you will face in these first months in the portfolio.

We would also like to invite you to visit some of our key Customs facilities. In the first instance, you might wish to visit our Auckland sites: Auckland International Airport, the International Mail Centre, the Air Cargo Inspection Facility, the Sea Cargo Inspection Facility and the Integrated Targeting and Operations Centre (ITOC) which is located in the Auckland Customhouse.

My team and I look forward to working with you.

Nāku noa, nā



Christine Stevenson
Acting Comptroller of Customs

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