

12 September 2019

C109657

Alex Harris  
[fyi-request-10616-76331a5c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10616-76331a5c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Harris

Thank you for your email of 4 June 2019, requesting information about ZX Security Ltd. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). I apologise for the delay in responding.

Public safety is Corrections' top priority. We are constantly looking at ways we can improve our policies and processes to ensure we fulfil our obligations to ensure both community-based and custodial sentences are administered in a safe, secure, humane and effective manner in accordance with all relevant legislation and international standards such as the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Corrections manages some of New Zealand's most challenging individuals, and our staff work in one of the country's most difficult environments. We employ a range of resources and capabilities to support staff safety, help maintain the security of our prisons and Community Corrections sites, enforce sentences and orders and prevent criminal offending.

Corrections Intelligence works proactively to support environments that are conducive to rehabilitation (i.e. safe, positive, free from violence and negative influences such as gangs) by identifying issues and emerging risks in order to support the safety of our staff, offenders/prisoners and the security of our sites.

The principle function of Corrections Intelligence is to support decision makers at all levels reduce and prevent crime and disorder by ensuring that they are aware of facts, assessments and gaps in intelligence. In order to achieve this, strong and effective partnerships are required with a range of internal and external stakeholders. Externally, Corrections Intelligence utilises public and private sector agencies to enable robust information collection, intelligence sharing and the creation of joint intelligence assessments.

Corrections Intelligence staff liaise frequently with other prisons and regions, partners, stakeholders, Police, governmental intelligence organisations and other government and non-government groups. Corrections Intelligence captures, analyses and passes on information that can support investigations, arrests and prosecutions.

Corrections' capabilities are informed by the State Services Commissions' model standards, 'Information Gathering and Public Trust', available on their website at: [http://www.ssc.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SSC %20-%20 Model%20 Standards%20-%20information%20gathering%20and%20public%20trust 0.pdf](http://www.ssc.govt.nz/sites/all/files/SSC%20-%20Model%20Standards%20-%20information%20gathering%20and%20public%20trust%200.pdf).

You requested:

*whether your agency has ever employed ZX Security Ltd, to provide training in social media or open source intelligence. For the avoidance of doubt, I am not interested in any work done by them on network security or penetration testing.*

*If so, all information relating to, or provided by, ZX Security Ltd in relation to the above.*

Open source information is any type of lawfully and ethically obtainable information that describes persons, locations, groups, events, or trends, and that exists within the public domain. While open source information has existed for some time, the prolific use of all forms of media, and in particular social media, has increased its accessibility significantly.

Corrections engaged the services of ZX Security through the ICT Security and Related Services (SRS) Panel in February and November 2018. The SRS panel are an approved cross-government group of industry experts contracted to provide government agencies with ICT services and advice on a range of security and privacy practices. The Department of Internal Affairs signed a Lead Agency Agreement which allows eligible agencies to enter into agreements with the ICT service providers listed in the Agreement.

Please see attached as Appendix One two Statements of Work and a memo approving the engagement of ZX Security for the provision of expert advice and consultancy regarding the development of a potential Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) capability. Some information is withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA, as the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences and section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, as the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject of the information.

I can advise that Corrections has not launched a formal OSINT capability to date.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with Corrections. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Leota  
National Commissioner