



GOVERNMENT  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BUREAU

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A2371950

19 September 2019

Mahrukh Sarwar

[fyi-request-11214-d7acd624@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11214-d7acd624@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Sarwar

**Official information request – partial transfer**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 13 September 2019 seeking information for the purpose of participating in the Royal Commission Inquiry into the attack on Christchurch Mosques.

I thought it would be useful if I begin by explaining the roles and functions of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). The GCSB is the New Zealand Government's signals intelligence agency, meaning it works primarily in the electronic communications and cyber security space. The GCSB has two main functions:

- providing cyber security and information assurance services to protect the information and information systems of organisations of national significance, both from the public and private sector; and
- collecting intelligence, primarily foreign intelligence, in accordance with Government national security and intelligence priorities in order to inform government decision-making.

I have discussed the role and functions of the GCSB in various public speeches, which are available on our website at [www.gcsb.govt.nz](http://www.gcsb.govt.nz).

The GCSB's role in domestic counter-terrorism is to provide assistance to agencies such as the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the New Zealand Police, at their request. This assistance is primarily technical capabilities and access to foreign intelligence. The GCSB does not undertake its own counter-terrorism investigations or engage with the community groups in relation to counter-terrorism.

The GCSB does have an outreach function with respect to cyber security, which involves working with public and private sector organisations to build awareness and improve their ability to protect their information and information systems.

Accordingly, I have decided to transfer the following questions, under section 14 of the OIA, to the NZSIS who is, along with Police, the lead intelligence agency on domestic counter-terrorism. Therefore, the information which you request relates is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of the NZSIS:

- The dates of all meetings with Muslim organisations in New Zealand and minutes of such meetings from periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999.
- How many, and which organisation or individual(s), have provided any consultation or training or advice to the SIS on matters relating to:
  - a. Arab / Muslim / Islam / Islamist / Islamicist / Jihadist /
  - b. Terrorists / Extremists / Radical / Far-right / White supremacy

- How many experts on the Muslim Community or faith have you engaged or consulted over the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- How many experts on far-right extremism have you engaged or consulted over the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- How many experts on other ethnic or religious nationalism or extremism have you engaged or consulted over the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?

I have decided to transfer the following question to the New Zealand Police under section 14 of the OIA, on the grounds that the information to which you request is not held by us but is believed to be held by Police:

- Who is the NZ Police's on-hand cultural advisor/negotiator/facilitator for:
  - a. On-going strategy
  - b. Emergency Situations

The GCSB will continue to work on the remainder of your request, and will provide a response to the following questions:

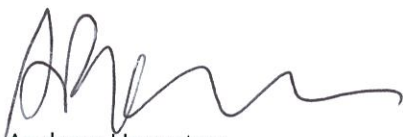
- Copies of GCSB documents, correspondences and addresses (including but not limited to emails, letters, and presentations), for specific periods (October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999), referring to any of the following terms:
  - a. Arab / Muslim / Islam / Islamist / Islamicist / Jihadist /
  - b. Terrorists / Extremists / Radical / Far-right / White supremacy
- On how many occasions were Parliamentarians directly involved in meetings with the GCSB for periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999? How many of these involved or pertained to a person(s) from the Muslim community?
- Copies of staff training documentation and audio-visual programmes on Islam and Muslim from periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999.
- What professional cultural advice or training or resources has the GCSB requested or received on Islam or Muslims for periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- What is the list of ethnicities of the staff of the GCSB for the last financial year?
- What are the number of people from the UK, US, Canada and Australia who have been appointed as staff or have been consulted for the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- What is the ethnic cultural composition over the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999 of your
  - a. senior management
  - b. senior operational staff
- What diverse perspectives have been embraced and resulted in reform of organisational culture that promotes diverse experiences and perspectives?
- What methods does the GCSB use to determine priorities regarding threats to national security?
- How do security agencies identify threats as either “potential threats” or “possible threats” or “imminent threats”?

- How can the GCSB expect to properly prioritise and curate their intelligence when they have not properly engaged with a key target community and there is no cultural contextual understanding of the community?
- How can the GCSB expect to properly prioritise and curate their intelligence when their approach to a key target community is very one-dimensional and siloed?
- How can the GCSB expect to properly prioritise and curate their intelligence when the government and the society in which it operates and informs their work have not undertaken any substantive engagement with the world's second largest faith community?
- How does the GCSB distinguish between white supremacists and far-right extremist groups?
- How does the GCSB distinguish between white and non-white groups?
- The annual reports list warrants that allow GCSB monitor people but do not specify why they have been issued. What were the warrants issued for between 2003 and 2018? Were any of these warrants for white supremacists?
- Where warrants were issued for white supremacists, how were those warrants actioned?
- How much resources, including financial resources, were devoted to monitoring white extremism during the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- How much resources, including financial resources, were devoted to monitoring non-white communities, including Muslim and Maori communities, during the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999.
- How much resources, including financial resources, were devoted to monitoring other groups such as animal rights, environment and health activists, during the periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- How many people have been suspected of supporting Serb-nationalism or the Bosnian Genocide since 1995?
- What cultural intelligence and cultural awareness and sensitivity training and reform arose out of the consequences of the Ahmed Zaoui Case?
- What cultural intelligence and cultural awareness and sensitivity training and reform arose out of the consequences of the Urewera Raids?
- On how many occasions has there been a review of policies regarding Muslims by any persons outside the GCSB for periods October 2017 – September 2019, November 2008 – October 2017, December 1999 – November 2008, and November 1990 – November 1999?
- What was the reason the GCSB understands for the cause of
  - a. Missing the Christchurch attacker
  - b. Less attention paid to white extremism

If you wish to discuss this decision, please feel free to contact [information@gcsb.govt.nz](mailto:information@gcsb.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hampton  
Director-General of the GCSB