



New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
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16 December 2019

Mahrukh Sarwar
Via FYI.org.nz website

Dear Ms Sarwar

Official Information Act Request

I am writing regarding your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, which was transferred to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) on 21 November 2019 by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

You asked: *what made the government form a task force to monitor for far-right extremism in July 2018?*

Taskforce is not a word the NZSIS has used in relation to far-right extremism. For that reason, I must refuse your request under section 18(g) of the OIA (the information requested is not held by the NZSIS, and I do not have reason to believe it is held by another agency).

However, as I wrote in my previous OIA response to you, dated 8 November, nine months prior to the Christchurch Mosque attacks, the NZSIS began working to obtain a better picture of the threat posed to New Zealand by right-wing extremists. This work stemmed from the identification of a need to understand whether global indicators around violent right-wing extremism were occurring in or affecting New Zealand. I must refuse to provide further information about what work was underway, or our sources of information, under section 6(a) of the OIA, as to do so would prejudice national security.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact oiia.privacy@nzsis.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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rebecca Kitteridge'.

Rebecca Kitteridge
Director-General of Security