



New Zealand  
Security Intelligence  
Service  
Te Pā Whakamarumarū

New Zealand  
Security Intelligence Service  
PO Box 900, Wellington

P +64 4 472 6170  
F +64 4 472 8209

[www.nzsis.govt.nz](http://www.nzsis.govt.nz)

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Sebastian  
[fyi-request-14986-5b817a77@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-14986-5b817a77@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Sebastian,

## Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 23 March 2021 seeking underlying documents mentioned in Part 8, Chapter 4 of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) report.

On 19 April 2021 you were advised that the deadline for responding to your request was extended to 21 May 2021, due to the consultations necessary to make a decision. I thank you for your patience.

The NZSIS aims to be as open as possible about our work. Due to the sensitive nature of what we do, however, revealing specific details could have security implications. I have therefore provided as much information as I can in response to your request, while protecting information that if released, could adversely affect our ability to carry out our national security role and functions.

The following grounds of the OIA have been applied when responding to your request:

- s6(a), where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- s6(b)(i), where the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the government of any other country or any agency of such government;
- s9(2)(a), where withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased persons;
- s9(2)(ba)(i), the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied; and
- s16(1)(e), information may be made available by giving a summary or excerpt of its contents.

Where information has been withheld under section 9 grounds I do not consider that the need to withhold this information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

#### Response to your request

1. **Paragraph 64: "One month later, in September 2011, the Combined Threat Assessment Group issued a threat assessment titled Availability of Firearms in New Zealand to Terrorists, Violent Extremists and Acutely Disaffected Persons." I request a copy of this report.**

The report referred to is a Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) Threat Report issued on 19 September 2011, titled "*Availability of Firearms in New Zealand to Terrorists, Violent Extremists and Acutely Disaffected Persons*". I have decided to release a copy of this report to you, with some redactions under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA. The report is being finalised for release and will be sent to you shortly (within a fortnight).

2. **Paragraph 82: "In December 2011, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service observed the "notable increase in groups across Europe espousing hard-line nationalist and anti-immigration rhetoric" and the resurgence of neo-Nazi groups in the United States of America and Europe." I request a copy of the report containing this observation.**

The document referred to is a joint National Assessments Committee and NZSIS report issued on 15 December 2011, titled "*The Terrorism Threat to New Zealand*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

3. **Paragraph 17: "Several high quality assessments focused on New Zealand's domestic terrorism environment were produced during this time (2013-2014) through the National Assessments Committee. These included a report by the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service... which discussed the terrorist threat posed by the extreme right-wing." I request a copy of this report.**

As you were advised on 4 May 2021, this part of your request was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), as the information requested is more closely aligned with the functions of that agency. Specifically, the document referred to was issued by the National Assessments Committee, which was a branch of DPMC (now called the National Assessments Bureau).

4. **Paragraph 36: "An assessment of the domestic threat from Islamist extremist and other sources of terrorism was produced [by CTAG] in 2014..." I request a copy of this report.**

The document referred to is a CTAG Threat Assessment issued on 10 October 2014, titled "*New Zealand Terrorism 2014*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

5. **Paragraph 37: "In July 2015 the Combined Threat Assessment Group produced the New Zealand Terrorism Threatscape." I request a copy of this report.**

The document referred to is a CTAG Threat Assessment issued on 9 July 2015, titled "*New Zealand Terrorism 2015*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

- 6. Paragraph 45: "We have seen only one shared report in the past decade, published by the Combined Threat Assessment Group and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, that substantively assessed online extremist activity in New Zealand." I request a copy of this report.**

The document referred to is a joint CTAG and NZSIS Security Intelligence Report issued on 20 June 2017, titled "*Online extremist activity in New Zealand*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

- 7. Paragraph 69: "One of the reasons for that limited coverage [of extremist left-wing and right-wing groups internationally] was explained in an earlier Combined Threat Assessment Group paper from September 2017." I request a copy of this paper.**

The document referred to is a CTAG Threatscape issued on 6 September 2017, titled "*Threatscape: United Kingdom*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

- 8. I request a copy of the New Zealand Terrorism Threatscape dated January 2018.**

The document referred to is a CTAG Threat Assessment issued on 16 January 2018, titled "*The New Zealand Terrorism Threat Environment*". A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a) and s6(b)(i) of the OIA.

- 9. I request a copy of Simon Murdoch's report, dated July 2018: "CTAG 2018: Its placement in New Zealand's counter-terrorism system architecture and its location; an independent view."**

A copy of this report is attached. Please note, some redactions have been made under s6(a), s9(2)(a) and s9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA.

- 10. Paragraph 86: "In July 2018, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service produced its Information & Intelligence Requirements Extreme Right-wing (XRW) Activity in New Zealand." I request a copy of this report.**

This document is withheld in full under s6(a) of the OIA, because releasing it would provide insight into the NZSIS's operational processes to the extent that our ability to detect activity of security concern could be compromised and this would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand.

- 11. Regarding the counter-terrorism tabletop training response exercise carried out by NZSIS and Police in October 2018, I request a copy of any document held by NZSIS serving as a formal debriefing, evaluation or review of the "XRW" or mosque attack scenario covered in this exercise.**

I am unable to release this document in its entirety, as doing so would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand, as protected by section 6(a) of the OIA. I have therefore released the attached unclassified summary of the report (Annex A), as allowed for under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA.

**12. Paragraph 38: "The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service's Strategic Intelligence Analysis team began producing its quarterly New Zealand Terrorism Updates in December 2017." I request copies of the New Zealand Terrorism Updates dated 4 December 2018 and 5 March 2019. Failing that, I request the sections of these reports dealing with the threat of right wing extremism.**

I am unable to release these documents in their entirety, as doing so would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand, as protected by section 6(a) of the OIA. I have decided to release an unclassified summary of the reports as allowed for under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA. These summaries are being prepared and will be sent to you in due course.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [oa.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz](mailto:oa.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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Rebecca Kitteridge**

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū  
Director-General of Security