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Sebastian
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Dear Sebastian

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 21 September 2021, in which you asked the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) for copies of three sets of documents referred to in the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019.

Response to your request

ONE: The speaking notes prepared by NZSIS for the closed session of the February 2019 Intelligence and Security Committee meeting.

I refuse your request for this document under section 18 (c) (ii) of the OIA, as we have assessed that release of this information would constitute contempt of the House of Representatives. The information requested, having been presented to the Intelligence and Security Committee, is considered secret evidence under the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives. Per Standing Orders 223 (3) and (4), secret evidence may not be disclosed to any other person unless the House expressly authorises such disclosure.

TWO: A July 2019 "Security Intelligence Report on extreme right-wing online activity in New Zealand" is described in the RCOI report as an outcome of the XRW baselining project [RCOI Part 8 Chapter 17.5]. I request a copy of this report.

This document is withheld in full under section 6(a) of the OIA. Release of this document 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.

THREE: In December 2018 the NZSIS initiated an inter-agency meeting to discuss the XRW terror threat [RCOI Part 8 Chapter 12 para 25]. Meeting attendees included representatives of Police and Customs [RCOI Part 8 Chapter 8 para 44]. I request copies of any minutes or other notes produced by NZSIS in preparation for or during the meeting, and any write-up or other document which summarises the meeting and its outcomes.

There is a Record of Meeting in relation to a meeting held on 3 December 2018, between New Zealand Police and NZSIS. The topic of the meeting was Right Wing Extremism.

The Record of Meeting is withheld in full under s6(a) of the OIA. Release of the document 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.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact uia.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, appearing to be 'RM', is written over the text 'Yours sincerely'.

On behalf of Rebecca Kitteridge
Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security