



9 June 2021

Sebastian

By email: fyi-request-15138-2112bc5b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2020/21-0511

Dear Sebastian

Official Information Act request for listed documents regarding Counter-Terrorism and the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 12 April 2021. You requested:

"...copies of these five documents underlying the Royal Commission report:

- 1. The 2013 National Assessments Bureau assessment titled "Far Right Rising: A Dangerous Myth"*
- 2. The August 2018 draft National Risk Register; failing that, I request a copy of this document's Terrorism Risk Profile*
- 3. The September 2018 National Assessments Bureau Global Terrorism Update; failing that, I request a copy of this report's "extreme right terrorism" annex*
- 4. The 2018 Counter-Terrorism Strategic Framework*
- 5. The latest Security and Intelligence Board annual strategic assessment prior to 15 March 2019*

And I request copies of these six documents underlying the Counter-Terrorism Strategy:

- 1. The Counter-Terrorism System Capability Review*
- 2. The Counter-Terrorism Work Programme*
- 3. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Plan*
- 4. The High-Level Framework for the Prevention of Violent Extremism*
- 5. The Public Information Action Plan*
- 6. The Counter-Terrorism Playbook. If the "Counter-Terrorism Handbook" is a separate document, I request a copy of this as well..."*

I note that on 11 May 2021 the time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days because it necessitated further consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

Please find enclosed copies of the following documents in the order of your request, subject to information being withheld as appropriate.

Date	Item
13 November 2013	Far-Right Rising: A Dangerous Myth (AR 54/2013-14)
June 2019	Summary of New Zealand's Terrorism Risk Profile
14 September 2018	2018 Global Terrorism Update (AR 31A/2018-19)
September 2018	New Zealand Counter-terrorism Strategic Framework
June 2020	Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism System Capability Review: Paper 1 and CT / CVE System Capability Landscape
1 April 2021	Counter-Terrorism Work Programme 2021
19 June 2020	CT Strategy Implementation Plan - 2020
12 September 2018	Prevention of Violent Extremism – High Level Framework
11 July 2018	The Counter-Terrorism Playbook (pages 1 – 4)

Some information has been withheld in the above documents under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a), as the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand,
- Section 6(b)(i), as 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 a Government,
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i), 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,
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials, and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions

With regard to the part of your request for the “August 2018 draft National Risk Register”, this was a draft internal document that was not progressed or agreed upon. Accordingly, I have decided to withhold this document in full under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i), as outlined above.

I note you indicated that you would be interested in a copy of Risk Profile – Terrorism, if the draft National Risk Register could not be released. As I am sure you can appreciate, inherent risks need to be mitigated in releasing this Risk Profile. Accordingly, I have decided to summarise the information contained in this document in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act. In doing so, I consider that the condition outlined in section 16(2)(c) of the Act is met.

With regard to the part of your request for “the latest Security and Intelligence Board annual strategic assessment prior to 15 March 2019”, I have decided to withhold this document under section 6(a) of the Act.

You will note two parts of the "Counter-Terrorism System Capability Review" are enclosed. Two further items comprise this Review. I have decided to withhold these parts in full under sections 6(a), 9(2)(ba)(i), and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as outlined above.

In considering the current copy of the Counter-Terrorism Work Programme (enclosed), you may also be interested in the previous Work Programme. If you have not already seen it, a copy of that version is available at the following address (page 4):

<https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-02/2019-20%20CT%20Strategy-all-final.pdf>. The Public Information Action Plan is also available at this address (page 6). Accordingly, in so far as your request is for the Public Information Action Plan, I am formally refusing it under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

In considering the item *Prevention of Violent Extremism - High Level Framework*, I would note that this item has been superseded by New Zealand's Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The Counter-Terrorism Strategy can be found online at: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/new-zealands-counter-terrorism-strategy>.

With regard to the final part of your request, I have decided to release the first four pages of the Counter-Terrorism Playbook. The remainder of this document needs to be withheld under section 6(a) of the Act. You may be interested to know that the Counter-Terrorism Playbook was superseded by the Counter-Terrorism Handbook, which was finalised in late 2019. The Counter-Terrorism Handbook can be found online through the following link (page 3): dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2020-02/2019-20%20CT%20Strategy-all-final.pdf. In so far as your request relates to the Counter-Terrorism Handbook, I am accordingly also refusing this part under section 18(d) of the Act.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on DPMC's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



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National Security Group