



New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
Te Pā Whakamarumarū

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23 June 2021

Joseph Lloyd
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Dear Mr Lloyd

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 26 May 2021, in which you ask the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) for all material relating to the Mt Erebus disaster on 28 November 1979 and for all material relating to the break-in at Maria Collins' home on 29 March 1980.

Approach to requests

The NZSIS aims to be as open as possible about our work. Due to the sensitive nature of what we do, however, revealing details about information we do or do not hold can have security implications. We are sometimes in a position where we can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of information.

We therefore make decisions on requests for official information on a case-by-case basis, weighing all the relevant statutory considerations.

Response

In response to your questions, I can advise that we hold two previous OIA requests for information about the Erebus disaster and the break-in. This documentation has not been provided to you in order to protect the privacy of individuals (section 9(2)(a) of the OIA). I consider that the public interest does not outweigh my decision to withhold this information in this instance.

I can tell you, however, that the NZSIS's response to both OIA requests was the same as the advice I am providing to you, which is that the Erebus disaster and subsequent events related to it (e.g. the Commission of Inquiry) were outside the NZSIS's legal mandate. We hold no records about the disaster or the break-in.

Apart from the two OIA requests mentioned above, your request therefore falls under section 18(e) of the OIA – the information requested does not exist.

Review

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oiaprivacy@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



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