



23 August 2022

Sebastian  
fyi-request-17660-e67d3da3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1326

Dear Sebastian

**Official Information Act request relating to Counter-Terrorism review documents**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 10 May 2022. You requested:

*Thank you for your response of 8 February. I would like to make a follow up request for the following:*

**ONE: A copy of the report titled “A National Security & Intelligence Framework for New Zealand” (Michael Wintringham and Jane Jones, September 2009)**

**TWO: A copy of the report titled “Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Value for Money Review” (Murray Horn, August 2012)**

**THREE: I would also like to renew my request for the document I requested in November, namely the document I identified as “Independent Review of Current Activity and Development of a Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Steve Long, 2015.”**

*In your response letter of 8 February you advised me that “there is no 2015 document written by Steve Long with [that] title...” For your reference, my source for this request was Part 8, Chapter 2 of the Christchurch attacks Royal Commission of Inquiry report. The title, author and date of publication is given in Table 12 as I quoted it, as can be seen here:*

*<https://christchurchattack.royalcommission.nz/the-report/part-8-assessing-the-counter-terrorism-effort/the-setting/>*

*In Part 8, Chapter 3 the same report is apparently referred to in paragraph 45:*

*“A 2015 report reiterated the need for a New Zealand counter-terrorism strategy. That report identified an insufficient emphasis on risk assessment, the absence of formalised arrangements that enabled ministers to weigh up the violent extremist or terrorist risk against other national security risks and the lack of whole-of-government counter-terrorism work programme management, reporting or evaluation. It also identified the continued absence of planned and regular public engagement on the terrorism risks facing New Zealanders at home and abroad and measures taken to counter those risks.”*

*I would like to request a copy of the report referred to in this paragraph.*

*I would further like to request:*

**1) If any review was completed for DPMC by former Director of the Domestic and External Security Group Steve Long on any topic, since 2010, and if so, what is the title and date of publication.**

**2) If any reviews of the counter-terrorism system were completed for DPMC from 2010 to 2018 (besides "Counter-Terrorism: A review of the New Zealand CT landscape" by Simon Murdoch, 2013), and if so what are their titles and dates of publication."**

I advised on 8 June 2022 that the timeframe for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 35 working days because consultations were needed before a decision could be made on the request. Subsequently on 23 June 2022, I responded to part two of your request for the document titled: '*DPMC Value for Money and Right Sizing the Budget*' which was released to you in full. I apologise for the delay in responding and I am now in a position to respond to the remainder of your request (bolded above).

Please note that the requested documents date from 2009 and 2015, and do not reflect the current counter terrorism strategy and work programme.

I will respond to the remainder of your request in turn.

**"A National Security & Intelligence Framework for New Zealand" (Michael Wintringham and Jane Jones, September 2009)**

Please find enclosed a document titled: '*A National Security & Intelligence Framework for New Zealand.*' This document was previously declassified and is being released to you in part with some information being withheld under one of more of the following sections of the Act:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- Section 6(b)(i), to protect 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)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials, and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

***Independent Review of Current Activity and Development of a Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Steve Long, 2015***

DPMC has conducted an extensive search within its electronic document management systems and has been unable to locate the document titled, '*Independent Review of Current Activity and Development of a Counter-Terrorism Strategy – 2015, by Steve Long*'. However, DPMC has located a document titled *The New Zealand Counter Terrorism Strategy (draft)* which I am releasing to you in full, noting this document is a draft and not public policy.

The document was not progressed to final, as noted by the Royal Commission of Inquiry report Part 8, Section 3.4.

I can also advise that a Cabinet National Security Committee paper titled 'New Zealand Counter Terrorism Work Strategy' was produced which references a 2015 independent review of New Zealand's current Counter-Terrorism work programme and is being provided to you in part, some information is withheld under s9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.

New Zealand's current Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy was last updated in 2021 and is available here:

<https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/counter-terrorism/new-zealands-counterterrorism-and-violent>

**1) If any review was completed for DPMC by former Director of the Domestic and External Security Group Steve Long on any topic, since 2010, and if so, what is the title and date of publication.**

As advised above, DPMC has conducted an extensive search and can find no other review material authored by Steve Long.

**2) If any reviews of the counter-terrorism system were completed for DPMC from 2010 to 2018 (besides "Counter-Terrorism: A review of the New Zealand CT landscape" by Simon Murdoch, 2013), and if so what are their titles and dates of publication."**

This part of your request is refused under 18(e) of the Act as the document(s) alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

#### **Additional Information**

In addition to your OIA request, for your interest please also find attached the below two documents that detail New Zealand's strategy for countering terrorism and violent extremism.

- *New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy*
- *Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy Overview*

The Government takes national security and the security of New Zealanders seriously. The aim of our Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy is to bring our nation together to protect all New Zealanders from terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

Terrorism is a global challenge, and we work closely with our international partners to reduce the risk of New Zealand and our region being either a target or source of terrorism. Our terrorism and violent extremism challenges are evolving, driven by increasingly complex and convoluted ideologies.

A number of agencies are responsible for collectively maintaining New Zealand's security to keep our communities safe. Our security agencies work closely together to detect and investigate threats, and to share information and resources to enable effective preventative action. We work in partnership with the public, communities, the private sector and local government to reduce the risk of terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

The Government is committed to addressing the online environment that enabled the Christchurch terrorist to use the internet as a weapon, working closely with international partners, the private sector and civil society. The aim is to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online without compromising essential freedoms, or the internet's role as a force for good.

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.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**National Security Group**