



18 January 2022

Mr Acworth  
[fyi-request-17778-4f1a3973@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-17778-4f1a3973@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Acworth

### Official information request

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 30 November 2021, in which you requested the following information from the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB).

1. Number of contractors hired in each financial year, from 2015 to current date.
2. The general 'role' breakdowns of those contractors (e.g., 15% building maintenance, 24% Digital Services).
3. Total budgetary spending on contractor hiring in each financial year, from 2015 to 2022.

My response to your request is below.

#### Question 1

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
Number of contractors hired	99	89	83	66	91	106

#### Questions 2 and 3

I must refuse your request for this information under section 6(a) of the OIA, as making the information available would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand. I thought it would be useful to provide you with additional context as to why section 6(a) applies in this instance.

#### *Application of section 6(a) to this request*

For the intelligence and security departments (meaning the GCSB and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service), the public release of detailed financial information risks revealing information regarding their capabilities or activities of the intelligence and security departments.

To protect against this, the agencies have to carefully consider the cumulative effect of making financial information publicly available. Successive official information requests for various elements of our financial information could, over time, reveal an accurate picture of our operational activities and capabilities.

Allowing or enabling a public picture of our interests to be created would be an untenable security and intelligence outcome, and would interfere with New Zealand's legitimate national security interests. As set out in the Public Finance Act 1989 and the ISA, publication of financial information regarding the intelligence and security departments is instead a

statement of the total annual expenditure of the departments. These statements can be found in our respective annual reports.

*Financial oversight*

Additionally, it may be useful to note that full financial statements are provided to the Intelligence and Security Committee, are available to the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security and are also subject to audit by the Auditor-General.

**Review**

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [information@gcsb.govt.nz](mailto:information@gcsb.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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Hampton', is positioned above the typed name.

**On behalf of Andrew Hampton**

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Tira Tiaki  
Director-General, GCSB