

s 6(a)

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 2:28 PM
To: 'Thomas Manch'; Media
Subject: RE: SIS human rights risk reviews

Hi Thomas

Happy New Year to you as well – hope you got some time away from the news machine.

s [REDACTED] may have already been in touch but just confirming that we have your questions.

Cheers

s 6(a)

From: Thomas Manch <thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 11:14 AM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: SIS human rights risk reviews

Hi NZIC media

Happy New Year, hope all is well.

I'm keen to ask a few questions about an OIA that has been [made public by the blog *No Right Turn*](#). It's about human rights reviews and assessments done by the SIS and GCSB on information they've received etc, and the response from the SIS indicates the minister has signed off on two "Risk Category 1" reviews since 2017 -- indicating information has been received when there was substantial likelihood it was produced through torture or similar mistreatment.

My questions are:

- What were these two instances that required these reviews? Can it be confirmed that this was information received? Did they involve "approved parties"?
- Did the minister determine, in his approval, that there was a substantial likelihood of torture or similar mistreatment in these cases, and what, if any, action was signed off on?
- Is the SIS assured that all was done in this case to mitigate the risk that information might have been gained through torture or similar mistreatment? If so, what actions were taken/.

Thanks
Thomas

--

Thomas Manch

Political reporter - [Stuff](#) - [The Dominion Post](#)

Cell: s 9(2)(a) | DDI: s 9(2)(a) | Twitter: [@thomasmanch](#) | Email: thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz
Press Gallery, Parliament Buildings room G-045

s 6(a)

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 4:25 PM
To: 'Sam Sachdeva'; Media
Subject: RE: Media query re intelligence and torture

Hey Sam – good to catch up and let's grab a cuppa soon. Attributable to a NZIC spokesperson:

The NZSIS and GCSB place great importance on human rights. Accordingly, when cooperating with overseas public authorities (international partners), receipt of intelligence is assessed for potential breaches of human rights according to strict policies, and with Ministerial oversight when necessary.

The Human Rights Risk Management Policy requires the NZSIS and GCSB to advise the Minister responsible for the agencies of any information received from an overseas public authority that is suspected or confirmed to have been obtained by a breach of human rights.

Under this criteria, two assessments reports have been made to the Minister. In both cases the reports were not received from the party believed to be responsible for any suspected human rights breach, rather they came to the NZSIS via a third party.

The range of actions set out in the policy include advising the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security, and stopping or restricting ongoing work with parties potentially responsible for the suspected human rights breach.

From: Sam Sachdeva <sam.sachdeva@newsroom.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 9:50 AM
To: s 6(a) Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Media query re intelligence and torture

Apologies, one more query – the joint policy statement as published on No Right Turn only appears to have every second page. I'm not sure if that was a formatting error on their end, deliberate redactions from the NZSIS, or a mistake in the original OIA response – if it is the latter, would I be able to get a copy of the full document please?

--

Sam Sachdeva
National Affairs Editor

newsroom.

sam.sachdeva@newsroom.co.nz | s 9(2)(a) | [@SamSachdevaNZ](https://www.facebook.com/newsroomnz) | [@newsroomnz](https://www.facebook.com/newsroomnz) |
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From: Sam Sachdeva <sam.sachdeva@newsroom.co.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 1 February 2022 at 9:35 AM
To: s 6(a) Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Media query re intelligence and torture

Kia ora s 6(a) team,

Hope you had a good summer break!

I'm hoping you might be able to help me out with a query regarding the SIS and its receipt of intelligence obtained in situations where there was a "substantial likelihood of torture or similar mistreatment" (from an OIA request [outlined here](#)).

I'd be keen to speak to someone at the SIS, or receive written comment, about the circumstances in each of the two cases which required a human rights review (within the bounds of what can be disclosed), what was done to mitigate against potential human rights breaches now or in future, what changes were made to intelligence relationships as a result, and whether the agency breached a prohibition on the "request or use intelligence where they know, or assess there is a real risk the intelligence was obtained through a serious human rights breach – such as torture, or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment".

As I suspect you will be aware, I have lodged questions with the minister's office on this topic and am speaking to him today, but I thought the SIS may wish to provide its own comment or clarifying remarks at an operational level. If I could get a response by the end of today, that would be greatly appreciated – please feel free to get in touch if you wish to clarify anything, otherwise I look forward to hearing back.

cheers,
Sam

--

Sam Sachdeva
National Affairs Editor

newsroom.

sam.sachdeva@newsroom.co.nz | s 9(2)(a) | [@SamSachdevaNZ](https://www.instagram.com/SamSachdevaNZ) | [@newsroomnz](https://www.facebook.com/newsroomnz) | [fb.com/newsroomnz](https://www.facebook.com/newsroomnz)

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From: Media
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 10:12 AM
To: 'Ben Strang'; Media
Subject: RE: My2022 Beijing Olympics app request

Hey Ben, good to yarn – this is what I provided RNZ last week:

You will need to contact the New Zealand Olympic Committee for any comment regarding any security advice given to New Zealand athletes competing at the upcoming Winter Games. Generally speaking, the NZ intelligence community does have a role in the safety and security of New Zealanders overseas, although we won't discuss specific events or advice given for security reasons.

Nga mihi,

NZIC Communications

From: Ben Strang <ben.strang@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 4:29 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: My2022 Beijing Olympics app request

Thank you.

On Wed, Feb 2, 2022 at 4:24 PM Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Ben

Just confirming that we have your email.

We will get back to you.

Regards

NZIC Communications Team

From: Ben Strang <ben.strang@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 February 2022 2:30 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: My2022 Beijing Olympics app request

Hi folks,

I'm working on a story about advice to athletes for the Winter Olympics. According to this story - <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/01/1077318617/winter-olympics-fbi-warning-cellphones-cyberattacks> - the FBI has flagged an app that all athletes must download and use, as having a potential security risk.

I'm wanting to find out if any NZ agencies have flagged a similar issue with the app, and if any advice has been sent to the Olympic team heading to Beijing?

Please do let me know if I should direct this request elsewhere. I'm hoping to get some information back by about midday tomorrow, at the latest.

Cheers,

Ben

--

Ben Strang

Senior reporter

E ben.strang@stuff.co.nz | T **s 9(2)(a)** | M **s 9(2)(a)**
Level 7, Spark Central, 42-52 Willis Street, Wellington 6011, NEW ZEALAND
PO Box 2595, Wellington 6140



From: Media
Sent: Friday, 4 February 2022 3:37 PM
To: 'Lucy Xia'; Media
Subject: RE: National Security Checks for Resident Visa 2021 applicants

Hi Lucy, you will need to put these questions to Immigration New Zealand, as the administrators of the resident visa programme.

We can, however, say that the NZSIS provides information and assessments to support a range of New Zealand government agencies to assist in their decision making. This includes providing national security advice to Immigration New Zealand, in accordance with its requirements.

The visa process is managed by Immigration New Zealand, and any decision to approve or withhold a visa is made by Immigration New Zealand, not the NZSIS.

NZSIS seeks to identify travellers with links to international extremist groups, espionage activities or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction technology. This process enables New Zealand's border protection agencies to prevent people who may pose a risk to national security from entering the country.

Nga mihi,

NZIC Communications

From: Lucy Xia <lucy.xia@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 5:41 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: National Security Checks for Resident Visa 2021 applicants

Hi,

I understand that many Chinese nationals who are applying for the Resident Visa 2021 are having to go through National Security Checks as part of their application process.

Could you respond on:

- How many NSCs for INZ are being processed currently?
- How many of these are being processed for RV2021 applicants? How many of these checks are processed for Chinese nationals?
- What is the average wait time for a NSC check for an INZ application currently?
- What are the countries or territories considered to be of possible security concern in visa application processing?

A response before 6pm on Friday would be much appreciated.

Thanks,
Lucy

--

Lucy Xia 夏叶

Reporter | Stuff

E lucy.xia@stuff.co.nz M [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Cider Building, 4 Williamson Ave, Auckland, 1010

s 6(a)

From: Media
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:55 AM
To: 'Zane Small'; Media
Cc: Jenna Lynch
Subject: RE: Newshub request

Hi Zane – contact DPMC comms for this – as lead for ODESC. I see they've already provided comment to other media.

NZIC Comms

From: Zane Small <zane_small@discovery.com>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 10:51 AM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Cc: Jenna Lynch <jenna_lynch@discovery.com>
Subject: Newshub request

Dear NZSIS,

Can you please provide a statement confirming that ODESC is convening to discuss the protest outside Parliament? Can you please confirm NZSIS participation?

Thank you.

--

ZANE SMALL DIGITAL POLITICAL REPORTER

NEWS DISCOVERY NZ **MOBILE** s 9(2)(a) DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ



s 6(a)

From: Eugene Bingham <eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 4:12 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Stuff series on Christchurch

Kia ora tīma,
Ngā mihi.

As to timing, it would be helpful to know by the end of next week if an interview is possible. If so, within two-three weeks of that, subject to the D-G's availability, if possible, please.
Eugene

On Thu, 17 Feb 2022 at 16:07, Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Eugene

Just confirming that we've received your request and will get back to you.

Please can you give us an idea of the timeframes you are working to.

Thanks

NZIC Communications Team

From: Eugene Bingham <eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 12:06 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Stuff series on Christchurch

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I'm currently researching a series on the Christchurch terror attacks for Stuff. One particular focus is the response of public sector agencies before and after the attacks.

I've spoken to people within the Muslim community about their interactions with the SIS, including meetings with Ms Kitteridge.

Some of these issues have been canvassed in the RCOI reports, but I would like the opportunity to interview her, if possible.

In particular, I'd like to discuss the "Jihadi Brides" matter, the purpose of specific meetings between personnel and members of the community, and changes post the attacks (eg a public-facing strategy, as raised in the RCOI, and attention on white supremacists and other extremists). I would like to have a more general interview about the topic with her, too.

The piece I'm preparing will be a major, multi-part investigation running on Stuff online and in print. I'd be happy to discuss more details with you, if that would help. Ideally, I'd like to come and see Ms Kitteridge, although Covid might make that impossible or not a good idea, in which case I'd be happy to talk over the phone or video call.

I can be contacted on **s 9(2)(a)** or via email eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Eugene Bingham

--

Eugene Bingham

Senior Journalist

M s 9(2)(a)

eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz

Stuff, 4 Williamson Avenue, Ponsonby, Auckland 1021, New Zealand

PO Box 6341, Victoria St West, Auckland 1142

[LinkedIn Profile](#) Twitter: [@Eugene_Bingham](#) [Stuff Author Page](#)

stuff  **Neighbourly**

From: Media
Sent: Wednesday, 23 February 2022 10:09 AM
To: 'Conor Whitten'; Media
Subject: RE: Media request from Newshub Nation

Hi Conor, the NZSIS will respectfully decline your invitation to appear on the show and instead point you the way of NZ Police for any comment about the protest.

By way of background – and to give important context, the NZSIS is not a law enforcement agency, and to the extent that protests raise law enforcement or public safety issues, they will generally fall within the mandate of NZ Police.

Section 19 of the Intelligence and Security Act makes it clear that the exercise by any person in New Zealand of their right to freedom of expression under the law, including the right to protest, does not in itself justify NZSIS taking any action in respect of that person.

NZSIS would therefore only investigate a protester or protest group if there was information connecting an individual or group with activity of national security concern, such as violent extremism, terrorism, or foreign interference. Foreign interference is defined by NZSIS as acts by a state or its proxies that are intended to influence, disrupt, or subvert a New Zealand interest by covert, corruptive, deceptive, or threatening means.

The New Zealand Intelligence Community does not discuss what may or may not be specific areas of operational focus.

Nga mihi,

NZIC Communications

From: Conor Whitten <conor_whitten@discovery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 February 2022 10:41 AM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Media request from Newshub Nation

Kia ora,

Hope this finds you well.

I'm emailing on behalf of Newshub Nation, our politics and current affairs show on TV3.

We're wondering if anyone at NZSIS would be available this week for an interview on the ongoing protest at Parliament?

It would be an opportunity to give reassurances to New Zealanders about security measures, how the protest activity is being monitored, and whether you're concerned about any overseas influence in what is going on there.

I appreciate much of what you do can't be discussed in the public eye, but we'd love to have a brief chat about anything you're comfortable sharing.

Please let me know if that is possible.

Appreciate your help.

Ngā mihi
Conor

--

CONOR WHITTEN SENIOR REPORTER NEWSHUB NATION s 9(2)(a)

NEWSHUB NATION THREE DISCOVERY NZ DISCOVERYCORPORATE.CO.NZ



s 6(a)

From: Thomas Manch <thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 February 2022 12:07 PM
To: s 6(a)
Subject: Fwd: Stories on three years since March 15

Bingham takes precedence and can ask questions we have need be. Thanks

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Thomas Manch** <thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz>
Date: Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 11:02 AM
Subject: Stories on three years since March 15
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>, s 6(a)
Cc: Laura Walters <laura.walters@stuff.co.nz>

Morning s 6(a)

Laura Walters (copied) and I are writing a series of stories on the policy changes that have occurred since the March 15 2019 terror attack, given it will be three years since the event in a few weeks time.

There are two stories we are interesting in interviewing Director-General Rebecca Kitteridge for: one on how seriously the far-right/white supremacist extremist threat is now considered by counter-terror agencies, and a second on the ethnic diversity within the agencies responsible for counter-terrorism.

It would be great to hear from DG Andrew Hampton also on any relevant changes within the GCSB, but given Kitteridge has fronted the response to the RCOI previously I think it makes more sense to request an interview with Kitteridge.

Could this be arranged in the coming two weeks?

Thanks
Thomas

--

Thomas Manch

Political reporter - [Stuff](#) - [The Dominion Post](#)

Cell: s 9(2)(a) | DDI: s 9(2)(a) | Twitter: [@thomasmanch](#) | Email: thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz
Press Gallery, Parliament Buildings room G-045

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Thomas Manch

Political reporter - [Stuff](#) - [The Dominion Post](#)

Cell: s 9(2)(a) | DDI: s 9(2)(a) | Twitter: [@thomasmanch](#) | Email: thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz

s 6(a)

From: Thomas Manch <thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 February 2022 11:39 AM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Russia cyber action

The livefeed of Ukraine being invaded? Working on it. But the livefeed of parliament was ticking over I think, it's of less interest now. And thanks, appreciate it.

On Fri, Feb 25, 2022 at 11:37 AM Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Hey Thomas – where's the protest live feed? Looking at this – will get something back to you in a bit.

S

From: Thomas Manch <thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 25 February 2022 9:24 AM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Russia cyber action

Hi NZIC media

Keen to ascertain today whether any adverse cyber events - or whatever phrase is used to define this - have been detected and connected to Russia's military action in Ukraine.

I'm sure things don't move so fast but I want to cover the bases today. If there's any other updates related to this to come please let me know.

Thanks

Thomas

--

Thomas Manch

Political reporter - [Stuff](#) - [The Dominion Post](#)

Cell: [§ 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | DDI: [§ 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | Twitter: [@thomasmanch](#) | Email: thomas.manch@stuff.co.nz

Press Gallery, Parliament Buildings room G-045

From: Lucy Xia <lucy.xia@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 24 February 2022 10:39 AM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Processing of immigration related national security checks

Thank you for this statement.

On Wed, 23 Feb 2022 at 15:51, Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Lucy,

The purpose of NZSIS's border security screening function is to identify travellers that may present national security risks, for example, those with links to international extremist groups, foreign interference or espionage activities, or the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction technology. This process enables New Zealand's border protection agencies to prevent people who may pose a risk to national security from entering the country.

NZSIS has a statutory responsibility under the Citizenship Act 1977 and the Civil Aviation Act 1990 to screen individuals applying for citizenship and individuals seeking access to secure airport environments.

With respect to your questions. **How many RV2021 related NSCs are you expecting to process between March and September 2022? How many staff do you have working on vetting the NSCs for RV2021 applicants? Do you have a staffing shortage in terms of the processing of large volumes of RV2021 related NSCs within a short period of time? Will you be recruiting or redeploying staff from other teams to meet the demand?**

In March 2020, the New Zealand government put in place border restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. NZSIS has continued to closely monitor the border to ensure any possible national security threats are identified and mitigated, but note that while the border is closed to the majority of foreign travellers, the likelihood of a threat presenting through travel movements has decreased.

The NZSIS maintained its function of security screening steadily since the COVID-19 border restrictions were put in place, and note there was a continued demand for this service. Processing times for border security screening have remained consistent. We expect the demand for the border security screening service will increase once travel restrictions lift. We do not disclose staff and case numbers for security reasons.

Nga mihi,

NZIC Communications

From: Lucy Xia <lucy.xia@stuff.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 22 February 2022 7:23 PM

To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>

Subject: Processing of immigration related national security checks

Hi,

My name is Lucy Xia and I'm a reporter for Stuff. I understand that the NZSIS is now dealing with a high volume of immigration related national security checks given the Resident Visa 2021 scheme is well underway.

Could you comment on:

- How many RV2021 related NSCs are you expecting to process between March and September 2022?
- How many staff do you have working on vetting the NSCs for RV2021 applicants?
- Do you have a staffing shortage in terms of the processing of large volumes of RV2021 related NSCs within a short period of time? Will you be recruiting or redeploying staff from other teams to meet the demand?

A response before the end of day Wednesday would be appreciated.

Thanks,

Lucy

--

s 6(a)

From: Media
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 11:04 AM
To: 'Louisa Cleave'; Media
Subject: RE: Assessment reports - anti-vaccination movement

Kia ora Louisa

Confirming that we have your request.

NZIC Communications Team

From: Louisa Cleave <louisa.cleave@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 March 2022 10:31 AM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Assessment reports - anti-vaccination movement

Kia ora

Can I please request, under the Official Information Act, reports by the Combined Threat Assessment Group relating to the Covid-19 vaccine roll-out in New Zealand.

It has been reported that CTAG reports exist covering the period of February 2021-November. This request is for that information, plus any additional reports covering the areas of vaccination, mandates and the protest at Parliament up until today, 1 March 2022.

Kind regards,

Louisa Cleave
Investigations and Special Projects Journalist
Stuff Circuit
E louisa.cleave@stuff.co.nz | M **s 9(2)(a)**
Stuff, 4 Williamson Avenue, Ponsonby, Auckland 1021, New Zealand

s 6(a)

From: Morningreport <Morningreport@rnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 6:33 PM
To: Media
Cc: Samuel Wat
Subject: RE: Morning Report tomorrow

Kia ora, just wanted to check this request.

Alternatively, is there anybody else with NZIC, NZSIS, or relevant departments, like the Director-General of Security, who might be available?

From: Samuel Wat
Sent: Wednesday, 2 March 2022 5:43 pm
To: media@nzic.govt.nz
Cc: Samuel Wat <Samuel.Wat@rnz.co.nz>
Subject: Morning Report tomorrow

Kia ora,

Sam from the Morning Report team.

Would someone from CTAG be available tomorrow morning to come onto the show in light of today's police action to move protesters?

We're wanting to ask what's being done to maintain security in-and-around parliament throughout this response, and the steps for beefing it up ahead, and security threat that still persists.

Let me know if that's possible.

Ngā mihi,

Samuel Wat | Morning Report Producer
RNZ | Level 2, 155 The Terrace | PO Box 123 | Wellington | New Zealand
Mob s 9(2)(a)



www.rnz.co.nz

s 6(a)

From: Eugene Bingham <eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 March 2022 2:15 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Stuff series on Christchurch

Kia ora,
Just wondering if there are any updates for me on this request, or any indication of when there might be.
Ngā mihi,
Eugene

On Thu, 17 Feb 2022 at 16:12, Eugene Bingham <eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora tīma,
Ngā mihi.

As to timing, it would be helpful to know by the end of next week if an interview is possible. If so, within two-three weeks of that, subject to the D-G's availability, if possible, please.

Eugene

On Thu, 17 Feb 2022 at 16:07, Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Eugene

Just confirming that we've received your request and will get back to you.

Please can you give us an idea of the timeframes you are working to.

Thanks

NZIC Communications Team

From: Eugene Bingham <eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 17 February 2022 12:06 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Stuff series on Christchurch

Tēnā koe s 6(a)

I'm currently researching a series on the Christchurch terror attacks for Stuff. One particular focus is the response of public sector agencies before and after the attacks.

I've spoken to people within the Muslim community about their interactions with the SIS, including meetings with Ms Kitteridge.

Some of these issues have been canvassed in the RCOI reports, but I would like the opportunity to interview her, if possible.

In particular, I'd like to discuss the "Jihadi Brides" matter, the purpose of specific meetings between personnel and members of the community, and changes post the attacks (eg a public-facing strategy, as raised in the RCOI, and attention on white supremacists and other extremists). I would like to have a more general interview about the topic with her, too.

The piece I'm preparing will be a major, multi-part investigation running on Stuff online and in print. I'd be happy to discuss more details with you, if that would help. Ideally, I'd like to come and see Ms Kitteridge, although Covid might make that impossible or not a good idea, in which case I'd be happy to talk over the phone or video call.

I can be contacted on s 9(2)(a) or via email eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz

Ngā mihi nui,

Eugene Bingham

--

Eugene Bingham
Senior Journalist

M s 9(2)(a)
eugene.bingham@stuff.co.nz

Stuff, 4 Williamson Avenue, Ponsonby, Auckland 1021, New Zealand

PO Box 6341, Victoria St West, Auckland 1142

[LinkedIn Profile](#) Twitter: [@Eugene_Bingham](#) [Stuff Author Page](#)



s 6(a)

From: James Halpin <james.halpin@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 2:22 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Foreign Fighter terror groups

Hi s 6(a)

My number is s 6(a), free now for a call

On Wed, 9 Mar 2022 at 14:15, Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi James – what is your number there? I'll give you a bell – but off the bat, Police may be the best port of call, but have a look at the Terrorism Suppression Act

s

From: James Halpin <james.halpin@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 1:59 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Foreign Fighter terror groups

Hi there,

As I reported yesterday, there is [some interest among Kiwis](#) to volunteer and fight in Ukraine. An international law and national security expert I interviewed, and [what he has mentioned on Twitter](#), said it is unlikely that Kiwis fighting with the Ukrainian International Legion would be considered under current terror legislation, unlike an ISIS or Al-Qaeda foreign fighter equivalent.

However, there are some extremist groups in Ukraine, such as the Azov Battalion, that Kiwis could theoretically join that aren't designated as terror groups. Does the SIS have a watchlist of these groups that it is looking out for Kiwis to join?

Thanks for your time,

James Halpin

From: George Block <george.block@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 3:56 PM
To: Media
Subject: Re: Protest activity query

Thank you.

On Wed, 9 Mar 2022 at 3:18 PM, Media <media@nzic.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi there George, response below, attributable to a NZIC spokesperson:

Nga mihi,

NZIC Comms

The New Zealand Intelligence Community has a longstanding practice of not discussing what may or may not be specific areas of operational focus.

By way of background – and to give important context, NZSIS is the intelligence agency with a domestic national security investigative function. Neither NZSIS nor GCSB are law enforcement agencies, and to the extent that protests raise law enforcement or public safety issues, they will generally fall within the mandate of NZ Police. NZSIS works closely with NZ Police on matters that raise both national security and law enforcement issues.

Section 19 of the ISA states “The exercise by any person in NZ ... of their right to freedom of expression under the law (including the right to advocate, protest, or dissent) does not of itself justify an intelligence and security agency taking any action in respect of that person ...”. NZSIS would therefore only investigate a protester or protest group if there was intelligence connecting the individual or group with activity of national security concern, such as violent extremism, terrorism, or foreign interference. Foreign interference is defined by NZSIS as acts by a state or its proxies that are intended to influence, disrupt, or subvert a New Zealand interest by covert, corruptive, deceptive, or threatening means.

As the Government's signals intelligence agency, the GCSB's primary areas of focus are foreign intelligence collection in accordance with the Government's national security and intelligence priorities, and countering cyber threats to Aotearoa New Zealand's organisations of national significance.

The GCSB does not undertake its own intelligence investigations or assessments on domestic security matters, but can provide technical assistance and access to foreign intelligence to NZ Police and the NZSIS, if requested.

Any assistance provided would be in accordance with the Intelligence and Security Act 2017, and the authorities we have in place under it.

From: George Block <george.block@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 12:00 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Protest activity query

Good morning New Zealand Intelligence Community,

Trust you're all well.

I'm writing with a query about your activities before during and after the occupation of parliament grounds.

Can you please advise by 3pm:

-Did the GCSB / SIS provide intelligence support, or any other sort of help, advice or assistance, before, during or after the occupation of parliament grounds and the police operation to clear it?

-What was the nature of your support and/or advice?

-Did the GCSB or SIS have any staff involved in Operation Convoy? If so, what was their role?

-Did the GCSB or SIS have any staff on the ground during or after the occupation / protest?

Please feel free to call if anything needs clarifying.

Regards

George

--

George Block
Reporter | Stuff

E george.block@stuff.co.nz M s 9(2)(a)
Cider Building, [4 Williamson Ave, Auckland, 1010](#)

From: Media
Sent: Thursday, 10 March 2022 3:45 PM
To: 'James Halpin'; Media
Subject: RE: Foreign Fighter terror groups

Hello James

This response can be attributed to a spokesperson for the NZSIS:

“The NZSIS has a long standing approach of not discussing what may or may not be specific areas of operational focus”

Kind regards
NZIC Communications Team

From: James Halpin <james.halpin@stuff.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 9 March 2022 1:59 PM
To: Media <media@nzic.govt.nz>
Subject: Foreign Fighter terror groups

Hi there,

As I reported yesterday, there is [some interest among Kiwis](#) to volunteer and fight in Ukraine. An international law and national security expert I interviewed, and [what he has mentioned on Twitter](#), said it is unlikely that Kiwis fighting with the Ukrainian International Legion would be considered under current terror legislation, unlike an ISIS or Al-Qaeda foreign fighter equivalent.

However, there are some extremist groups in Ukraine, such as the Azov Battalion, that Kiwis could theoretically join that aren't designated as terror groups. Does the SIS have a watchlist of these groups that it is looking out for Kiwis to join?

Thanks for your time,
James Halpin

