

# Multi-agency Memorandum of Arrangement to Counter Violent Extremism Online

Version 2.0 March 2022

## Parties

New Zealand Police | Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa (NZP)

New Zealand Security Intelligence Service | Te Pā Whakamarumaru (NZSIS)

Government Communications Security Bureau | Te Tira Tiaki (GCSB)

Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua (DIA)

## Signatories

Signed:

NAME Sean Hansen	NAME s6(a)	NAME s6(a)	NAME Jared Mullen
ROLE Director National Security (ci) New Zealand Police	ROLE s6(a) New Zealand Security Intelligence Service	ROLE s6(a) Government Communications Security Bureau	ROLE Director Digital Safety Department of Internal Affairs
s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)
Dated: 13/4/22	Dated: 5/4/22	Dated: 5/4/22	Dated: 4 April 2022

Jared Mullen

ROLE

Director Digital Safety  
Department of Internal  
Affairs

Dated: 4 April 2022

## PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Arrangement (MOA) provides an overarching framework for the continuation and promotion of the collaborative working relationship between New Zealand Police, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, Government Communications Security Bureau and the Department of Internal Affairs (the Parties) to counter violent extremism online.

The intention of this MOA is to assist the Parties to enhance community safety to New Zealand interests and New Zealanders; and assist the Parties to;

- Prevent crime and harm;
- Keep New Zealand and New Zealanders secure; and
- Build a safe, prosperous and respected nation

## BACKGROUND

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019 identified the need for an integrated strategy to prevent and counter extremism, violent extremism and terrorism.

The New Zealand Government identified the need for a coordinated approach to ensure that systems and capabilities are in place to act early and respond when needed. Parties to this MOA commit to delivering on the vision of New Zealand's existing Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism strategy, including the four pillars, mōhio (understand), mahi tahi (working together), whakahōtaetae (prevent) and takatū (be ready to respond and recover). This MOA is a way to implement this vision, and these pillars.

The Parties will work together to identify, assess, and prevent harm from terrorism and violent extremism that may emanate from online platforms.

The Internet has provided an environment where terrorist and violent extremist content (TVEC) and extremist ideologies can be spread globally and on a mass scale. This environment of unregulated access creates an opportunity for bad actors to recruit, radicalise, indoctrinate, and train new members online. Social media and alternative media are being used by these groups to orchestrate and influence activities that can cause harm. The global reach and anonymity of the online environment requires a collaborative approach to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

## EFFECT OF THIS ARRANGEMENT

This MOA confirms the relationship between the Parties based on a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and collaboration. The Parties will work together to achieve the purpose of this Arrangement.

## SCHEDULES TO THE ARRANGEMENT

The Parties agree that they may develop schedules relating to specific procedures and activities involving the Parties. These will be attached to the MOA as schedules. New agreements or schedules may supersede existing ones.

## APPENDICES TO THE ARRANGEMENT

Appendices have been included to build Parties shared understanding; these include:

- Appendix A— Definitions

## AGENCY LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

All agencies will operate within the scope of their respective legislation and statutory functions.

## OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The Parties have a shared vision to keep New Zealand and New Zealanders safe and recognise the importance of collaboration to achieve this. While each agency has its own operating policies, procedures and practice, for including information management, the agencies will cooperate in good faith to counter terrorism and violent extremism and prevent harm to New Zealand communities.

The following principles will guide the way the Parties will work together within the scope of their respective legislation and operational policies:

- A. The Parties will collaborate and share information to detect and prevent harm resulting from violent extremism, or terrorism.
- B. The Parties will ensure that information is shared in accordance with relevant legislation, protective security requirements, and agreements with international partners.
- C. The Parties may coordinate with additional agencies if action is required to prevent harm.

## COSTS

Unless the Parties agree otherwise, the cost of meeting the commitments of this MOA shall be met by the Party incurring the cost.

## COMMENCEMENT AND REVIEW

This MOA shall come into effect on the day that it is signed by all Parties. The MOA be reviewed annually, and any mutually agreed changes made in writing.

## ISSUE OR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

All issues, disputes and differences between the Parties will be resolved at the earliest opportunity. The Parties' representatives will meet in good faith to resolve the dispute as quickly as possible.

Matters that remain unresolved within a reasonable timeframe may be referred to each Party's nominated signatory.

## **TERMINATION**

Should any party seek to withdraw from this arrangement they should consult with the other Parties and provide at least thirty days written notice of their intention.

## **GENERAL**

This multi-agency arrangement reflects best-practice principles for collaboration. It is non-binding and does not replace any other standing arrangement between any of the Parties.

---

## Schedule 1 – High-level BAU Process Flow

s6(a)



~~RESTRICTED~~

## Underlying Principles of Schedule 1

### Information Sharing, Risk Management, Coordination and De-confliction:

Information sharing, coordination and de-confliction between the Parties is essential to increase terrorism and violent extremism 'discovery' efforts and to assess, monitor and prevent such threats. 'Discovery' in this context means the identification of previously unidentified threats.

The principles of this MOA underpin all stages of this process flow.

### Responsibilities of the Parties:

Parties will ensure that their activity does not negatively impact ongoing investigations or relationships (e.g., offshore law enforcement). See liaison table below.

### Liaison

NZSIS leads the relationship with overseas HUMINT and security intelligence agencies.

GCSB leads the relationship with SIGINT partners.

NZ Police leads the National Security relationships with overseas law enforcement partners.

DIA has relationships with overseas law enforcement agencies and regulators for online content removal. DIA has relationships with online content hosts.

s6(a)



### Agency involvement

The Lead agency may seek the assistance of any other agency if considered necessary.

### Resolution/Action

Parties should consider the full range of options to prevent and disrupt terrorism and violent extremism such as: public education, interviews or questioning, issuing warnings, arrest and prosecution, preventing access or removing content, or the ongoing management of risk as required.

~~RESTRICTED~~

## Schedule 2 — Crisis Response

When a crisis requires surge capacity, the Parties will work together to share intelligence and prioritise resources in order to mitigate the threat, while avoiding duplication of effort. The Parties will provide agency-level guidance.

Agencies efforts may include:

- identifying to partners the resources they have available
- developing joint information requirements
- de-confliction of effort and resourcing
- establishing communication and information sharing processes
- providing intelligence, information and evidential to the Lead agency

~~RESTRICTED~~

## APPENDIX A - DEFINITIONS

New Zealand's Countering terrorism and violent extremism national strategy uses the following definitions:

**Extremism:** Religious, social or political belief systems that exist substantially outside of more broadly accepted belief systems in large parts of society, and are often seen as objectionable to large parts of society. Extreme ideologies may seek radical changes in the nature of government, religion or society or to create a community based on their ideology. Such beliefs are often defined by an ideology that claims the supremacy of one 'in-group' over all 'out-groups' and propagates the dehumanisation of that out-group.

**Violent extremism:** The justification of violence with the aim of radically changing the nature of government, religion or society. This violence is often targeted against groups seen as threatening violent extremists' success or survival, or undermining their world view.

**Terrorism:** Under New Zealand law, a terrorist act is defined as an ideologically, politically, or religiously motivated act — including those causing death or serious bodily injury — intended to induce terror in the population, or to compel the government to do or not do certain things.

**TVEC:** an acronym for terrorist and violent extremist content that has been widely in use since the terrorist attack on Christchurch Mosques in 2019. It is used commonly by the [Christchurch Can](#) and [GIFCT](#).