



2024-05-16 Scott OIA

12 July 2024

Scott

fyi-request-26830-7b318af6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Scott

Official information request

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 16 May 2024 to the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) seeking information about our declassification programme.

You were advised on 11 June 2024 that the time limit for responding to your request had been extended to 12 July 2024 because the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have asked for the following information:

The 2022 update to the NZ Classification System Policy introduced new advisories and requirements for PSR-mandated agencies who hold classified information such as the GCSB.

Relating to this, I would like to request copies of:

ONE: The GCSB Declassification Policy

TWO: The GCSB Declassification Governance Framework

THREE: Any GCSB documents that set out criteria for declassifying documents

FOUR: Any plan or roadmap GCSB has for proactive declassification

FIVE: For the PSR Self-Assessment Reports submitted 2023 and 2024, all answers supplied by GCSB to the questions relating to the implementation of the 2022 Classification System Policy update (including any written answers and attachments included as part of GCSB's answers)

Response

In regard to Parts One and Three of your request, I have considered only active policies as within the scope of your request, not draft policies. As the GCSB does not have a promulgated declassification policy in place, these parts of your request are refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist.

I am also refusing Parts Two and Four of your request under section 18(e), as the information you have requested does not exist.

In response to Part Five of your request, the following is GCSB’s answer to questions relating to the implementation of the 2022 Classification System Policy update:

Are your internal policies and procedures updated to reflect the 2022 changes in the Classification System policy?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No
What date have you planned for full implementation?	2024/25		
Have you adopted the Classification training modules for your agency or incorporated the refreshed guidance into your existing security training programme?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Do you have a Declassification programme?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> In Progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Please outline what your agency’s next steps are for embedding the Classification System policy:

- There has been some work to progress embedding policies and processes, but the focus has been on training programme in the first instance. [Withheld s6(a)] ... this will be progressed in 2024/25.
- There is currently a NZSIS declassification programme [... withheld s6(a)]. The GCSB are in the process of developing policy.

It may be helpful to explain that the GCSB maintains the capacity to declassify material on an ad hoc basis (for example in response to OIA requests) but does not have a programme for the routine declassification of historical records.

Review

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi

Andrew Clark

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