



## Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial  
Services

3 JUN 2015

Jay Best

Email: [fyi-request-2693-fe4125b8@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2693-fe4125b8@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Jay Best

### Request for Information Regarding Glenn Greenwald and Misrepresentation of Information

I refer to your request of 5 May 2015 for the following information in response to articles published on the New Zealand Herald website:

- *"But it has also said some of those with access to the Snowden documents - apparently including journalist Glenn Greenwald - 'ha[s] a track record of misrepresenting, misinterpreting and misunderstanding information' [1]. Can you tell me specific examples that lead to this track record?"*
- *Can you please tell me if you believe that you personally have a track record of misrepresenting, misinterpreting or misunderstanding information? [2]*
- *You are quoted as saying 'Conclusions that have been drawn from the interview do not accurately reflect the GCSB's activities.' [3]." [sic]*

The articles you referenced in your request were as follows:

- [1] [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11443630](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11443630)
- [2] <https://nzelection.askaway.org.nz/q/this-list-has-around-150-sourced-lies-from-iohn-key-pls-explain-how>
- [3] [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=11413065](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=11413065)

In response to your first question, an example of the misunderstanding and misinterpreting of information came from several guests appearing at the *'Moment of Truth'* event in the lead up to last year's general election. Several of the guest speakers used information they claimed were from documents stolen by Edward Snowden to claim that the GCSB was undertaking mass surveillance of New Zealanders.

Both the Prime Minister and the Director of the GCSB have gone on record saying that mass surveillance of New Zealanders is not occurring. The Inspector General of Intelligence and Security has complete and open access to the intelligence agencies and has said she has found no evidence to support the claims.

In response to your second question, this question is frivolous or vexatious therefore I will not be addressing it.

In response to your remaining question, there have been several other instances where such information was misrepresented, misinterpreted and misunderstood. However, it would prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand to give any further details of these examples.

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson  
Chief of Staff

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