



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial
Services

28 JUL 2015

Alex Harris

Email: fyi-request-2893-dc213894@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Official Information Act Request: Damage Assessment of Snowden Revelations

I refer to your the Official Information Act request of 30 June 2015 addressed to the Rt. Hon. John Key as Minister for National Security and Intelligence, in which you asked "*has the New Zealand government conducted an assessment of the damage (if any) caused to New Zealand's national security and/or international relations by the Snowden revelations? If so, I'd like a copy.*"

Your request is for assessments conducted by "*the New Zealand government*". This Office is only in a position to identify and respond in relation to any relevant information held or received by this Office. Although it is reasonable to assume the Prime Minister would receive any significant assessments on this subject, it is possible that relevant agencies or Ministerial Offices may hold information relevant to your request that has not been identified in this response. If you are seeking information potentially produced by other agencies, but not held or received by this Office, you may wish to consider making a request to that relevant agency.

We have interpreted your request for any relevant information on assessments held or received by Rt Hon John Key or this Office in his capacity as either the Prime Minister or the Minister for National Security and Intelligence. I confirm that the Prime Minister has received reports on assessments conducted by government agencies of the consequences for New Zealand, including for our national security and international relations, of the unauthorised disclosures attributed to Edward Snowden. Information has been provided to the Prime Minister by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). DPMC has also provided this Office with some relevant information provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

These reports of relevant assessments have been withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:

- Section 6(a) as the making available of that information would be likely "*to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand*".
- Section 6(b) as the making available of that information would be likely "*to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by-*
 - (i) *the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.*
 - (ii) *any international organisation.*"

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You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the OIA.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "pp. Bull" followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff