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[A1637196]

18 September 2017

W Shih

<https://fyi.org.nz/request/5558-oia-air-gapping-network-security>

Dear W Shih

**Official information request for manuals/specifications for “air gapping networks”**

I refer to your official information request dated 16 March 2017 for “any manuals and/or specifications for air gapping networks”.

Firstly I would like to apologise on behalf of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) for not responding to the request that you made to us in March through the FYI website. I am aware that this is the second time that we have not been timely in responding to a request from you. Unfortunately, we do not have a record of your most recent request being received by our correspondence inbox. We will check the FYI website regularly so that future requesters do not have the same experiences as you have had when approaching the GCSB with your queries. Thank you for your patience in waiting for our response.

The New Zealand Information Security Manual (NZISM) sets out the processes and controls for use by government agencies that are essential for the protection of all New Zealand Government information systems (<https://www.gcsb.govt.nz/publications/the-nz-information-security-manual/>).

In Information Technology, an “air gap” (also known as an “air wall” or “air gapping”) refers to a security architecture concept that isolates a computer network from the public internet or other local area networks. This is a colloquial term, which usually applies to physical separation. An air gap may not be literal, as cryptographic and other security architecture techniques can be applied to provide equivalent secure isolation of the network.

The GCSB follows the publicly available guidance in the NZISM around “air gapping” (which may also be described in the NZISM as “separation”). The GCSB does not hold any other manuals or specifications for air gapping networks.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [information@gcsb.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Once again, your patience in waiting for our response to your request is appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hampton  
Director