



21 September 2017

David Johnston
Email: fyi-request-6226-b86509fd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2017/18-0048

Dear David Johnston

Official Information Act request relating to policies to combat the influence of foreign intelligence on New Zealand's elections

I refer to your Official Information Act request, transferred from the Electoral Commission to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 28 July 2017, which asked:

"Has the electoral commission developed any policies in order to prevent or manage the influence of foreign intelligence on New Zealand's elections in the last two years?"

Are any such policies being developed?"

If possible, can you please provide any such policy document."


I can confirm that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has developed policy in this area, in conjunction with the Government Communications Security Bureau and the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service.

One document has been identified as directly relevant – although the document was not complete at the time your request was transferred to DPMC on 28 July 2017. This document is "Principles and protocols for managing NZSIS and GCSB engagement on foreign state threats and cyber-security threats to the 2017 election" which was provided to Ministers on 8 August 2017.

This document is withheld in its entirety under section 18 (d) of the Official Information Act 1982, as "the information requested is or will soon be publicly available". It is intended that the document be released on the websites of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the New Zealand Intelligence Community on the completion of the electoral process on 12 October 2017. It is assessed that, once the electoral process is complete, there is reduced risk of foreign state interference, including cyber threats to the general election.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

Cecile Hillyer
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Security & Intelligence