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File: 12/1-0019

Joshua Grainger
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OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST: NCSC/CCIP INCIDENT REPORT STATISTICS

Dear Mr Grainger,

1. Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 17 January 2012, in which you sought statistics held by the NCSC (and its predecessor the CCIP) on the reporting of cyber security incidents.
2. The NCSC receives 1-3 formal incident reports per month from New Zealand government departments and other agencies. The NCSC also gains information about cybersecurity incidents from a number of other sources, and through a variety of different methods – some of which are highly sensitive. The triage criteria used to assess incidents and threats also rely on knowledge gained from a variety of sensitive sources.
3. The publication of information revealing the NCSC's capabilities to detect or respond to incidents would degrade its ability to deploy those capabilities effectively in the future. Similarly, publishing information about vulnerabilities in the computer systems of the New Zealand government or providers of critical infrastructure (such as banking or telecommunications) could result in the exploitation of those vulnerabilities.
4. GCSB also signs non-disclosure agreements with those departments and agencies to which it extends assistance, and therefore has an obligation to maintain their confidentiality.
5. For these reasons, your request for detailed statistics is declined under the provisions of Section 6(a) and Section 9(2)(ba) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that publication would risk prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand; and that the information is subject to an obligation of confidence on the part of GCSB.
6. You have a right under Section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to seek an investigation and review of this refusal by an Ombudsman.

Regards,

Catriona Robinson
Assistant Director, Office of the Director