



# Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister  
Minister of Tourism

Ministerial Services  
Minister in Charge of the  
NZ Security Intelligence Service  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB

11 JUN 2013

Alex Harris  
Email: [fyi-request-866-012c219a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-866-012c219a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alex Harris

## Official Information Act Request Relating to the Government Communications Security Bureau and Related Legislation Amendment Bill

I refer to your official information requests of 13 May 2013 for "*all advice and communications on the Government Communications Security Bureau and Related Legislation Amendment Bill, including emails, cabinet papers, discussion papers, aides memoire, briefing notes, and other documents.*"

Redacted versions of the relevant Cabinet papers on which the formulation of the GCSB and Related Legislation Amendment Bill was based will be available shortly on the NZ intelligence community website [www.nzic.govt.nz](http://www.nzic.govt.nz) and may be accessed there. To the extent your request relates to the information to be released publicly it is formally declined under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act on the basis "*that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.*"

The redactions to be made to these documents together with all other relevant advice, communications and any other documents, are withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- 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 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to "*maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.*"

Where the information has been withheld under section 9, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

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

Yours sincerely

Wayne Eagleson  
Chief of Staff