



14 March 2019

45 Pipitea Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011

PO Box 805, Wellington 6140

Phone +64 4 495 7200

Fax +64 4 382 3589

Email OIA@dia.govt.nz

Website www.dia.govt.nz

Alex Harris

Via FYI.org.nz:

[fyi-request-9357-
3dcf5bde@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9357-3dcf5bde@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Alex Harris

Your Official Information Act 1982 request OIA1819-0431

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of Internal Affairs (Department) on 14 January 2019, and which was extended by 20 working days on 12 February, to allow more time for the completion of collation and consultations necessary to make a decision in your request.

You have requested:

1. *Whether your agency has ever employed ZX Security Ltd, to provide course in social media or open source intelligence. For the avoidance of doubt, I am not interested in any work done by them on network security or penetration testing.*
2. *If so, all information relating to, or provided by, ZX Security Ltd in relation to the above.*

Part 1 of your request

The Department of Internal Affairs has not contracted ZX Security Ltd for the provision of regular training to its employees, however in 2015 five employees attended the "Advanced Open Source Intelligence Course", provided by ZX Security Ltd.

The ZX Security Ltd course "Advanced Open Source Intelligence Course" is a short 1 to 2-day course aimed at professionals working in a law enforcement and security context. The course is intended to provide information that could be relevant for direct detection of fraud and criminal activity, as well as for understanding practices that people may be using to obscure their illicit online activity.

Our employees were made aware of this course through the Combined Law Agency Group (CLAG), a cross-agency group that facilitates effective cooperation between agencies with a law enforcement, investigative or regulatory functions.

Two Department employees attended the two-day course in Wellington in July 2015. The remaining three employees attended a similar course in Auckland in September 2015, as part of a group course offer arranged by CLAG. Of the three Departmental employees attending the Auckland based course, one employee attended for the full two days, while the other two employees attended only the first day of the course.

Part 2 of your request

Approximately 45 documents have been identified in relation to the Advanced Open Source Intelligence Course course provided by ZX Security Ltd.: This includes financial information and invoices, and correspondence relating to the booking and attendance of the course.

The Department has decided to release this information to you in part. Some information is being withheld under the following provisions of the Act:

- Section 6(c) – to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, detection and investigation of offences and the right to a fair trial.
- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of individuals.
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to prevent prejudice to the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information.
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – 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 a department or organisation in the course of their duty.

I consider that the withholding of information as mentioned above is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

We are currently preparing this documentation for release and will provide it to you as soon as possible. We anticipate that this will be within seven working days, or by no later than 22 March 2019.

Please note the following, in relation to our collation

- One employee who attended the course is currently on extended leave and their correspondence could not be collated in their absence. We will continue to pursue this collation and if further information that falls within the scope of your request is identified, we will provide this to you without undue delay, subject to any necessary withholding under the Act.
- Two employees who attended the course are no longer working for the Department, and their correspondence has already been transferred to remote archive, per standard Departmental practice for Outlook data of former employees. Search and retrieval of remote archives entails substantial collation and research, and is associated with a cost. As the two employees in question attended only the first day of the CLAG group course, their correspondence is anticipated to be very similar in content to the correspondence that I will be releasing to you in this OIA response, therefore we have not pursued a search of our remote archives. However, if you believe that information of interest is likely to be held in this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact the Department at OIA@dia.govt.nz to discuss collation and potential charges further.

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 or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,



Suzanne Doig
Director of the Office of the Chief Executive