



New Zealand
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Service
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Ronan Whitteker

Fyi-request-11309-4fd31e0a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Whitteker

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 27 September 2019 to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS). You asked: *what is the amount of foreign financial support that each political party in New Zealand has obtained that is deemed to be of "concern" since 2014?*

As I discussed in my submission to the Justice Select Committee Inquiry into the 2017 General Election and 2016 Local Elections in August this year, part of NZSIS's role in relation to threats to elections and democratic institutions and processes is to collect, analyse and assess intelligence about foreign interference activities in New Zealand. Our particular focus in this area is understanding the activities and motivations of foreign state actors operating in, or seeking to influence, New Zealand institutions, processes and individuals.

NZSIS acknowledges that political donations are a legally sanctioned form of participation in New Zealand politics. However, we become concerned when some aspect of the donation is obscured or is channelled in a way that prevents scrutiny of the foreign origin of a donation.

One of the main reasons we become concerned about these activities is because as relationships of influence and/or a sense of reciprocity are established, they may be used as leverage to facilitate future interference or espionage activity.

I am unable to provide specific details about the NZSIS's work in this area, such as any political donations identified to be of concern since 2014. It would be detrimental to New Zealand's national security should I reveal any information that might reveal specific areas of NZSIS focus or capability.

I therefore must refuse your request under sections 6(a) of the OIA [likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand and the international relationships of the Government of New Zealand].

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oia.privacy@nzsis.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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rebecca Kitteridge
Director-General of Security