



**GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BUREAU**
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12 February 2014

Mr Matthew Whitehead
fyi-request-1395-e006baa7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Whitehead

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your request dated 9 January 2014, in which you request:

- *“Please confirm whether surveillance has been or is being conducted against any Members of Parliament (hereafter “MP’s”) or people who at the time of surveillance, were known by your organisation to have registered as candidates for Parliament either as part of a Party List or for an electorate (hereafter “Candidates”) at the time they were MP’s or candidates, excepting any routine security checks or safety checks or safety precautions that these MP’s or candidates were notified of. This need not include any instances when surveillance has stopped upon or soon after the GCSB becoming aware of an individual’s candidacy.”*
- *“Excepting surveillance for the safety of the MP’s or candidate under surveillance, or for the safety of people who may be made a target on their behalf, I would like to request a summary of any other purposes information about MP’s or candidates is used for, and under what part of the relevant Act or Acts that surveillance is authorised.”*

The GCSB has not placed any MP or known candidate under surveillance at the time of their candidacy or when holding office. To respond to your query, our checks have gone back to the commencement of the GCSB Act.

New Zealand citizenship is a requirement to stand for election as an MP. The GCSB would not conduct surveillance in pursuit of its foreign intelligence function unless a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident was an agent or representative of a foreign power. The Bureau can support surveillance of other agencies under its s.8C function. It would be inappropriate to speculate on purposes for which such

information might be used by those agencies. If you have further interest in this topic you may wish to approach them with your queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Fletcher', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Ian Fletcher
Director