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30 April 2021

Azad Khan
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Dear Azad Khan,

Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 4 January 2021 seeking copies of New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) assessments from 2017 to 2019. On 13 January 2021 you refined the scope of your request to *all NZSIS Security Intelligence Reports and CTAG Threat Assessments relating to domestic counter-terrorism from 2017 to 2019*.

On 11 February 2021 you were advised that the deadline for responding to your request was extended to 30 April 2021, due to the consultations necessary to make a decision. I thank you for your patience.

The NZSIS aims to be as open as possible about our work. Due to the sensitive nature of what we do, however, we are sometimes in a position where we cannot release documents or information due to the security implications.

I have decided to grant your request in part. Please note, it will take us some time to prepare this information for release. There are four broad categories of reports in scope of your request, and I am proposing to release them in the following order:

1. Overview of the New Zealand terrorism environment (included in this response)
2. Quarterly New Zealand Terrorism Updates
3. Reports about the Christchurch attacker and White Identity Extremism
4. Miscellaneous and thematic reports

If you would like a certain topic to be prioritised, please let us know.

Where possible, I am releasing copies of Security Intelligence Reports (SIR) and CTAG Threat Assessments (TA) that are in scope of your request, with information redacted as required to protect national security or privacy considerations.

Some SIRs and TA's in scope of your request have been withheld entirely under section 6(a) of the OIA, as we are unable to release any information in the document without prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand.

Where there were duplicate copies or later re-issues of an intelligence report (for example at a lower classification) I have considered the lowest classification of the report for release.

Please find attached the first five reports for release. The reports being released are:

- SIR: Counter terrorism: Overview of the New Zealand environment, issued 22 March 2017
- TA: The New Zealand terrorism threat environment, issued 16 January 2018
- TA: New Zealand Terrorism Threat Level remains at HIGH, issued 18 March 2019
- TA: New Zealand Terrorism Threat Level revised to MEDIUM, issued 17 April 2019
- TA: New Zealand terrorism threat environment following the Christchurch attack, issued 16 April 2019

Some information has been withheld from these reports under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a), where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; and
- 6(b)(i), where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oa.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

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū
Director-General of Security