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22 June 2021

Harold

[fyi-request-15429-98d3d8b4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-15429-98d3d8b4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Harold,

## Official information request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 11 May 2021 seeking a copy of the annual review of the national terrorism threat level, completed February 2021. On 4 June 2021 you were notified that the timeframe for responding to your request had been extended to 23 June 2021, because of the consultations necessary to make a decision.

### Approach to official information requests

The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) aims to be as open as possible about our work. Due to the sensitive nature of what we do, however, revealing details about information we hold can have security implications. We therefore make decisions on requests on a case-by-case basis.

### Decision on your request

The Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) continually monitors the threat from terrorism in New Zealand and the impact of global terrorism trends. CTAG is mandated by Cabinet to produce an annual review of New Zealand's terrorism threat level, although the threat level can change at any time in response to events.

The document you have requested was the annual threat level review published on 1 February 2021. It is a Threat Assessment issued by CTAG, titled *New Zealand Terrorism Threat Level Remains at MEDIUM*, and was published on 1 February 2021.

I am unable to release this document in its entirety, as doing so would be likely to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand, as protected by section 6(a) of the OIA. I am therefore releasing to you a summary of the report as allowed for under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA. I hope you find this useful.

### Summary of CTAG Threat Assessment

- CTAG continued to assess the New Zealand terrorism threat level as medium, which means that a terrorist attack was assessed as "*feasible and could well occur*".
- The threat level was informed by a range of factors, including the influence of the Christchurch attacks on violent extremism in New Zealand the potential for further attacks to be inspired.

- CTAG considered those who have a probable violent intent and who have, or could easily acquire the capability to undertake a terrorist attack in New Zealand.
- It was assessed that the most likely form of attack would involve readily available weapons such as bladed weapons, vehicles or firearms.
- An attack would most likely involve an individual acting alone, who might be unknown to the intelligence agencies or police.
- An attack could be motivated by a spectrum of ideologies, including Identity Motivated Violent Extremism<sup>1</sup> or Faith Motivated Violent Extremism<sup>2</sup>.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [oa.privacy@nzsis.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



**Rebecca Kitteridge**

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

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<sup>1</sup> Promoting the use of violence to advance one's own perception of identity and/or denigrate others' perceived identities.

<sup>2</sup> Promoting the use of violence to advance one's own spiritual or religious objectives.