



New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
Te Pā Whakamarumarū

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9 August 2021

A W Farmer

fyi-request-16203-4446e398@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A W Farmer

Official Information Act Request

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA) request of 26 July 2021, in which you ask the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) for any advice / memos / or reports that mention Crypto AG, or its alternatives "Thesaurus" or "Rubicon" from October 2019 to April 2020.

You have noted that you are particularly interested in "any advice that was prepared for any Minister of the Crown and any internal communications which addresses reputational harm that could be caused by the revelation that Crypto AG was owned by the CIA".

Response

My response to your request is that, as provided for by section 10 of the OIA, I can neither confirm nor deny whether the NZSIS holds the information you are seeking. I consider that to do so would be likely to prejudice the interests protected by section 6(a) of the OIA, namely the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand.

Context

To provide you with some context, the NZSIS aims to be as open as possible about our work. You will appreciate, however, that due to the sensitive nature of what we do, we are sometimes in a position where we can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of the information being asked for.

This is because confirming whether information is held or not held on various topics could provide an indication of where NZSIS interests lie or equally importantly, where they do not lie. Confirming one way or the other could compromise our effectiveness and limit our ability to achieve our objectives. Conclusions that we hold any information should not be drawn from a "neither confirm nor deny" response.

Review

If you wish to discuss this outcome 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
Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Pā Whakamarumarū