



Te Tira Tiaki
Government Communications
Security Bureau

PO Box 12209, Wellington 6144
P +64 4 472 6881, F +64 4 499 3701
www.gcsb.govt.nz

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Sam Brown

fyi-request-33424-26603f72@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

Official Information Act request

I refer to your OIA request to the Prime Minister's office received on 12 January 2026, seeking information about national security assessment of satellite communications infrastructure dependencies.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 of your request were transferred to the GCSB for reply on 30 January 2026. I apologise for our response not meeting the statutory deadline due to reduced capacity while we recruit to fill vacancies in our official correspondence team.

Response

I would like to provide some context about the role of the GCSB when providing national security risk assessments and advice to policy and decision makers.

Under Part 3 of the Telecommunications (Interception Capability and Security) Act 2013, the GCSB undertakes national security risk assessments to provide advice to decision makers to keep New Zealand's public telecommunications network secure. Any network operator providing telecommunications services in New Zealand, when they meet the prescribed thresholds, must engage with the GCSB for this purpose.

Similarly, the GCSB provides national security advice to decision makers in relation to issuing licences for satellite ground stations under the Radiocommunications Act 1989.

My responses to your questions are as follows.

1. Any risk assessments, threat analyses, briefings, or advice provided to Ministers or senior officials regarding national security implications of New Zealand's increasing reliance on foreign-controlled satellite communications systems (specifically Starlink/SpaceX operated by Elon Musk) for critical infrastructure, emergency services, or government communications.

GCSB holds no information in scope of this question. Your request is therefore refused under s18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

2. Any analysis of data sovereignty concerns related to satellite internet providers routing New Zealand internet traffic through foreign jurisdictions, including whether this creates signals intelligence vulnerabilities or compromises New Zealand's Five Eyes obligations.

GCSB holds no information in scope of this question. Your request is therefore refused under s18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist. I note Statistics New Zealand is the lead agency on data sovereignty.

3. Any correspondence with Five Eyes intelligence partners regarding security assessments of commercial satellite communications providers, or discussions about standardising security requirements for satellite services used by government agencies or critical infrastructure operators.

A guidance publication titled *Securing Space – Cyber security for low earth orbit satellite communications* is publicly available here: <https://www.ncsc.govt.nz/protect-your-organisation/low-earth-orbit-satellite-communications/>

The document was authored by the Australian Signals Directorate and co sealed by GCSB's National Cyber Security Centre and other international partners. It is relevant to both Network Operators and Internet Service Providers.

Review

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact information@gcsb.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.

Ngā mihi



Andrew Clark

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Tira Tiaki
Director-General, GCSB