



Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

09 MAR 2020

David Farrar

By email: fyi-request-10924-f4d56823@requests.fyi.org.nz

cc: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

PMO Ref: PMO 189-2019
Ombudsman reference: 510984

Dear David Farrar

Official Information Act request for information relating to meetings with Intelligence Agencies

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 8 August 2019. You requested:

"...the following information - the number of meetings between yourself and either the Director-General of the Security Intelligence Service or the Director-General of the Government Communications Security Bureau between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2019. This should exclude meetings of the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee.

I'd like the information broken down by month, and by Director-General.

Please note I am not seeking any information about the content of the meetings, or their duration - purely how often they have occurred."

I note that I responded to your request on 2 September 2019, withholding the information you had requested in full under section 6(a) of the Act. Following your complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman, this Office has reconsidered your request for information and undertaken additional consultations with the relevant agencies. I have now decided to release the information compiled in the table below, which contains the number of times that the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern or this Office, has met with officials from the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) between 1 January 2018 and 30 June 2019.

Please note that although the Director-Generals (D-Gs) may be scheduled to meet with the Prime Minister or her staff, they may send officials on their behalf when they are unable to meet. Further to this, although regular meetings are scheduled between the Prime Minister and the respective D-Gs, these meetings do not always proceed, but may not have been removed from the record. As requested, the table below excludes meetings relating to the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Committee. Finally, please note that although every endeavour was made to provide an accurate record of the number of meetings as requested, there was no record held of the number of meetings in the form you requested by this office or either of the agencies. Therefore, after your request was received, it was necessary to collate the information manually from diary records held by this Office together with lists compiled by each agency from their own records and from the memories of officials involved. It is possible that a meeting may have been missed or meetings included from diary records that did not in the end take place.

Month	NZSIS	GCSB
January 2018	4	3
February 2018	3	1
March 2018	3	1
April 2018	2	2
May 2018	1	5
June 2018	-	-
July 2018	-	-
August 2018	1	1
September 2018	2	1
October 2018	1	-
November 2018	-	1
December 2018	-	1
January 2019	1	1
February 2019	4	4
March 2019	10	3
April 2019	-	-
May 2019	2	1
June 2019	-	1

Yours sincerely



Raj Nahna
Chief of Staff