



8 November 2021

Sebastian  
[fyi-request-16692-7d98595e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-16692-7d98595e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: OIA-2021/22-0262

Dear Sebastian

### Official Information Act request relating for two National Security documents

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 10 September 2021. You requested:

- “1) *Post Operation Deans National Security System Review*
- 2) *National Security Group Business Plan*”.

On 8 October 2021, we wrote to you extending the time limit for response by 20 working days, to 8 November 2021. The additional time was needed to complete consultations before a final decision was made on your request. I am now in a position to respond.

The purpose of *Post Operation Deans National Security System Review* was to review the performance of the national security system following the terrorist attack on the Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019. It was confidential to those officials and agencies responsible for the national security response to identify where the system worked well and any areas which could be improved. As such, there is an inherent risk of such information being made publicly available. I have decided to withhold the *Post Operation Deans National Security System Review* in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand;
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Please find **attached** a copy of the second document you requested, the “*National Security Group Business Plan*”. Some information has been withheld, as marked in the document released to you, under the following sections of the Act:

- section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials;
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

Where information has been withheld under section 9, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely

Tony Lynch  
Deputy Chief Executive  
National Security Group