



10 May 2022

Mohammed Khan  
fyi-request-19106-0f7ea09a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: OIA-2021/22-1259

Dear Mohammed Khan

**Official Information Act request relating to Counterjihad concerns**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 11 April 2022. You requested:

*Scholars agree that Brenton Tarrant, as with other terrorists like Anders Breivik, was inspired by the 'counterjihad' ideology formulated by extremist ideologues like Pamela Geller, Juliet Moses, Robert Spencer, and David Cumin, which seeks to blame all Muslims for terrorist actions (or self-defence actions, in the case of Palestine) carried out by a small minority.*

*Following the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch attacks, what action is to be taken in regards:*

- 1) Internal promoters of 'counterjihad' material targeted at local Muslim communities*
- 2) Access to offshore 'counterjihad' material as promoted by websites like 'Jihad Watch', 'Gates of Vienna', and the 'Israeli Ministry of Strategic Affairs' such as that which inspired the attacks."*

The Government takes national security and the security of New Zealanders seriously. The aim of our Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy is to bring our nation together to protect all New Zealanders from terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

Terrorism is a global challenge, and we work closely with our international partners to reduce the risk of New Zealand and our region being either a target or source of terrorism. Our terrorism and violent extremism challenges are evolving, driven by increasingly complex and convoluted ideologies.

There are a number of agencies responsible for collectively maintaining New Zealand's security to keep our communities safe. Our security agencies work closely together to detect and investigate threats, and to share information and resources to enable effective preventative action. We work in partnership with the public, communities, the private sector and local government to reduce the risk of terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds.

The Government is committed to addressing the online environment that enabled the Christchurch terrorist to use the internet as a weapon, working closely with international partners, the private sector and civil society. The aim is to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online without compromising essential freedoms, or the internet's role as a force for good.

Our strongest defence against terrorism is an inclusive, resilient society.

Please also find two documents attached which detail New Zealand's strategy for countering terrorism and violent extremism.

- New Zealand's Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy
- Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Strategy Overview

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

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marika Hughes".

Marika Hughes  
**Acting Deputy Chief Executive**  
**National Security Group**