



A17069590

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Tēnā koe Adam

## Official Information Act request

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) transferred from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) on 5 May 2023, seeking information relating to the use of Hikvision cameras.

The following parts of your request were transferred to the GCSB:

- *Any records, including correspondence, reports, memos or briefings, that discuss or relate to the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand*
- *Any information regarding the steps that the New Zealand government has taken or plans to take to mitigate any potential cybersecurity risks associated with the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand.*

## Response

I thought it would be useful to begin by explaining the GCSB's role when it comes to cyber security. The GCSB's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) works with a broad range of New Zealand's most significant organisations from the government and private sectors, including local government, to provide cyber security support and resilience building advice. This includes publishing information security alerts and advisories.

The GCSB also publishes the New Zealand Information Security Manual (NZISM) which provides mandatory information security advice and guidance for government agencies and departments (a copy of which can be found here: <https://nzism.gcsb.govt.nz>).

The NZISM controls criteria are based on product functionality (including security) and suitability in the first instance. The NZISM is product-agnostic, but all government agencies and departments are required to undertake a risk assessment as part of the decision process to purchase and deploy any technology which is operated on their networks.

Furthermore, the NZISM requires all government departments to certify and accredit all new software systems they use.

Specific product selection is primarily a matter for individual agencies, provided those products meet the guidance and policy requirements of the NZISM and other requirements such as those set out in the overarching New Zealand government security Protective Security Requirements (PSR) <https://www.protectivesecurity.govt.nz/>.

I have responded to your specific questions below:

- *Any records, including correspondence, reports, memos or briefings, that discuss or relate to the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand*

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA.

We undertook a search of "Hikvision" in our databases and this returned a large number of results, including over 1,000 emails. To provide some context to this number, as part of our regular news scanning service, we hold news articles and media queries that reference "Hikvision". Retrieving and compiling the requested information would amount to substantial collation and would have an unreasonable impact on the GCSB's other operations.

- *Any information regarding the steps that the New Zealand government has taken or plans to take to mitigate any potential cybersecurity risks associated with the use of Hikvision cameras in New Zealand.*

As I explained above, the GCSB publishes the NZISM which provides mandatory information security advice and guidance for government departments. Individual government departments are required to undertake a risk assessment before purchasing or deploying new technology.

Beyond that, my response to your request is that I neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of any information. This reply is given within the terms of section 10 of the OIA, because disclosing the existence or non-existence of information is likely to prejudice the interests protected by section 6(a) of the OIA (the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand).

## **Review**

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [information@gcsb.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi



## **Bridget White**

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