



New Zealand
Security Intelligence
Service
Te Pā Whakamarumaru



GOVERNMENT
COMMUNICATIONS
SECURITY BUREAU
TE TIRA TIAKI

27 May 2019

Chair
Justice Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Chair

Supplementary Information on Inquiry into 2017 General Elections and 2016 Local Body Elections

We are writing in response to the Committee's request for further information on four topics:

- GCSB and NZSIS's preparedness for the next General Election;
- Local Body Elections;
- Electoral financing; and
- One further matter, which is outlined in a classified annex.

GCSB and NZSIS preparedness for the next General Election

In our unclassified statements to the Committee, we outlined our roles in protecting elections and provided an overview of our activities in the lead up to the 2017 General Election. We also outlined some of the work our agencies will be doing to prepare for the next General Election. Since our briefing to the Committee, we have:

- Written to all Party Leaders represented in Parliament, as well as independent Members of Parliament, offering briefings on foreign interference risks to New Zealand's democracy; and
- Commenced work with the Electoral Commission on a range of election related matters.

We are also considering a range of other measures, based on international best practice, which New Zealand could put in place to ensure our next General Election is free from foreign interference. We do not work in isolation on these matters and will be partnering closely with other agencies including the Ministry of Justice and the Electoral Commission.

In our evidence to the Committee, we referred to recent work carried out by the Canadian Government on the protection of their elections. This work includes public communications about potential threats to Canada's election, how the public can identify such threats and how threats will be managed over the election period. This information is publicly available and may provide the Committee with some insights into possible approaches that New Zealand agencies could take in the lead up to the next election.

Local Body Elections

GCSB and NZSIS are not resourced to provide election security advice to every local body in New Zealand. Given the number of local body entities, GCSB and NZSIS support is likely to be limited to general protective security guidance. However, from time-to-time, and where we see specific or system risks (such as online voting), we may provide specific protective or cyber security advice to affected councils or to the Department of Internal Affairs (which has policy responsibility for local government matters).

Electoral financing

The Committee has been supplied with a briefing by the Ministry of Justice outlining the approaches that other jurisdictions, including our close security partners, have taken to electoral financing and foreign interference law reform. GCSB and NZSIS were consulted on that briefing. As we outlined in our evidence, GCSB and NZSIS are not policy agencies, however, we do have a role in ensuring that policy is consistent with New Zealand's intelligence picture. To that end, we will work closely with the Ministry of Justice as they develop the next phase of advice for the Committee. We reiterate our statements in the open hearing that full transparency of our electoral financing regime, transparency about people working in New Zealand for foreign interests, and robust monitoring and enforcement, are the best remedy to foreign interference risks.

We have included some further information in the attached, classified annex. We ask that the Committee treat the annex as Parliamentary Secret evidence.

We are available to provide further evidence at any time

Yours sincerely



Andrew Hampton
Director-General of GCSB



Rebecca Kitteridge
Director-General of Security, NZSIS