



**New Zealand Security Intelligence Service**

*Te Pā Whakamarumarū*

### History and archives

NZSIS was established in 1956 as the New Zealand Security Service. The 1969 New Zealand Security Intelligence Service Act and subsequent amendments govern our role and functions.

NZSIS holds historic records about national security, dating back as far as 1919, which are progressively being transferred to Archives New Zealand. NZSIS gives priority to requests from members of the public for information under the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982.

### Keeping New Zealanders informed

Beyond its legislated reporting functions, NZSIS seeks to keep New Zealanders informed of its activities where possible, through publications, an annual report, a public website and other outreach events and briefings.

### Governance, checks and balances

The head of the NZSIS is the Director of Security who reports directly to the Minister in Charge of the NZSIS, customarily the Prime Minister.

NZSIS investigations are initiated when there is an assessed threat to New Zealand's national security, and are conducted in a manner that is both lawful and proportionate. We do not investigate institutions or individuals solely because of their faith, creed, nationality or ethnicity or because they engage in lawful protest activity.

NZSIS is subject to checks and balances, including thorough scrutiny of its actions by the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security. Oversight is also provided by the Intelligence and Security Committee of Parliament, the Office of the Ombudsmen, the Privacy Commissioner and the Controller and Auditor-General.



# An introduction to NZSIS

How we contribute to New Zealand's national security

**For further information and details, please go to our website:**  
[www.nzsis.govt.nz](http://www.nzsis.govt.nz)

**To discuss matters relevant to New Zealand's national security, please contact:**

**New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS)**  
Free Phone: **0800 SIS 224** (0800 747 224)  
Telephone: 64 4 472 6170  
Facsimile: 64 4 472 8209

**Postal Address:**  
PO Box 900  
Wellington  
New Zealand



## What we do

The New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) is a civilian government agency which contributes to New Zealand's safety and security. NZSIS gathers and evaluates intelligence about current and emerging issues, events and threats relevant to New Zealand's national security and global interests.

NZSIS provides government with intelligence and security advice which seeks to ensure New Zealand's people and interests remain safe. We work closely with other government agencies, international partners and the wider community to defend and enhance New Zealand's security, reputation, economic well-being and way of life.

## Protecting New Zealand and New Zealanders

NZSIS plays a key role in countering violent extremism, working to ensure that New Zealand is neither the subject nor the source of terrorism. We investigate those seeking to use violence to further their political, religious or ideological agendas. NZSIS investigates not only individuals who would participate in acts of terrorism, but also those who plan, finance or facilitate such acts, and those who radicalise and recruit others to terrorist ideologies.

In terrorism-related situations affecting New Zealand, NZSIS coordinates and provides information to other government agencies responsible for responding to such incidents.

We provide tailored specialist advice to New Zealand's border security agencies, including Customs and Immigration, as part of the integrated arrangements to protect the country's border.

NZSIS contributes to security planning, threat identification and risk management for major international events, such as Rugby World Cup 2011, where New Zealanders or New Zealand interests are represented.

## Advancing New Zealand's position

NZSIS, working together with the other agencies in the New Zealand intelligence community, contributes intelligence relating to international issues of significance to New Zealand. This enables a wider understanding of regional and global issues and helps to inform government decision-making around New Zealand's defence, economic and foreign policies.

## Maintaining New Zealand's reputation

Certain countries may use legitimate trade and scientific exchanges to acquire goods, technology and knowledge for use in weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes. New Zealand has signed a number of non-proliferation treaties and conventions and strongly supports international efforts to prevent the development and spread of WMD. NZSIS investigates and seeks to disrupt proliferation-related activity, and works closely with government, commercial, academic and scientific groups to deter such activities. In doing so, NZSIS helps maintain New Zealand's international reputation and regional and global security.

### Weapons of mass destruction (WMD)

are devices – including nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological weapons – that can cause large scale harm to people and/or property. Missiles and other delivery systems are also of concern.

## Protecting essential services

Essential services such as telecommunications, banking, power, water and transport, as well as passport, immigration and border control systems, are all susceptible to those who seek to exploit or damage our interests. Through cyber attack or unauthorised access of any kind, these services could be exploited to obtain sensitive information or otherwise manipulated to disrupt or disable them. NZSIS works with other government agencies to help protect New Zealand's critical infrastructure.

## Information security

NZSIS helps to detect and prevent efforts to exploit New Zealand's nationally-sensitive information. Other countries may try to obtain this information to gain economic or political advantage over New Zealand or its allies. NZSIS helps protect information that is important to New Zealand's interests or security needs. In addition to sensitive diplomatic and economic information, New Zealand has expertise in a range of niche sciences and technologies, which other countries may desire for their own benefit.

Employees in some areas of government or the armed services may need access to classified information. NZSIS carries out detailed background checks on these individuals, with their agreement, to ensure they can be entrusted with this information. We make enquiries to establish an individual's trustworthiness, loyalty, discretion and overall suitability to work with classified information. NZSIS makes objective recommendations on the basis of its findings to the employing agency.

NZSIS works with government agencies to ensure that their systems, equipment and premises are appropriately secure to protect nationally-sensitive information. NZSIS provides a range of security awareness services including physical security advice, briefings for New Zealand officials stationed or travelling overseas, and site assessments. Our advice helps ensure that classified or commercially sensitive information does not fall into hostile hands via espionage, inadvertent disclosure, insecure premises or disaffected insiders.

## Our People

NZSIS staff come from a wide cross section of New Zealand society and perform a variety of roles. They include intelligence officers, analysts, linguists, technology experts and other specialists at our headquarters in Wellington. We also have regional offices in Auckland and Christchurch and some staff based overseas.

