



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

20 August 2014

Hon Metiria Turei MP
Green Party Co-leader
P O Box 18888
WELLINGTON 6011

By email: metiria.turei@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Ms Turei

I have received your complaint of 14 August 2014 concerning allegations that New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) documents were declassified in order to be used for political purposes. The complaint was received in my office on 19 August.

It is a function of my Office to inquire into complaints under section 11(1)(b) of the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security Act 1996 (the "Act") where a person has or may have been adversely affected by any act, omission, practice, policy, or procedure of an intelligence and security agency. I also have authority to commence an inquiry on my own motion into the legality and propriety of a particular activity of an intelligence and security agency under sections 11(1)(a) and (ca) of the Act. For inquiries concerning propriety, it is not within my functions to inquire into any action taken by the Minister responsible for the relevant intelligence and security agency.

The information provided with your complaint does not on its face demonstrate that you have been personally affected by the alleged conduct, and therefore I cannot address the matter under my complaints jurisdiction. However, I am satisfied that there is a sufficient public interest justifying the commencement of an own-motion inquiry by my Office into the substance of the issues raised in your complaint.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 19 of the Act, I have informed the Director of Security and the Prime Minister that I am commencing an inquiry in accordance with sections 11(1)(a) and (ca) of the Act into the legality and propriety of the release of information by the NZSIS in this case, including allegations that NZSIS documents were declassified in order to be used for political purposes.

Please let me know if you have any further information, including documents, which you would wish me to consider in the course of my inquiry. Please contact my office if you wish to discuss this matter further.

I will advise you once my inquiry is concluded and the results of the inquiry will be published in due course on the IGIS website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Gwyn', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cheryl Gwyn
Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security