



Metiria Turei and Russel Norman
Green Party Co-Leaders



14 October 2014

Rt Hon John Key
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Rt Hon John Key

Thank you for your letter dated 13 October 2014 regarding the Terms of Reference for a targeted review of settings in relation to foreign terrorist fighters.

We welcome the opportunity to attend a confidential briefing from officials on the issues the review will address and have arranged for this as per your letter. My office has been in contact with the DPMC and a briefing has been scheduled for next Tuesday.

However, given the short timeframe for the review, I would like to provide feedback and request greater consultation ahead of the meeting next week.

The Green Party is concerned that the matters this review will cover are significant in nature, with the potential to adversely affect a number of New Zealanders who have no reason to be affected. The right to travel freely and hold political and religious beliefs are important human rights. Any limitations on these rights ought to be limited and carefully considered.

We are concerned that the review is to be headed by Government, limited to officials in DPMC and conducted over a short timeframe, with no provisions for public consultation. This process is inadequate when dealing with the significant issue of New Zealanders' human rights.

Therefore, given the immense public interest and concern, we ask that this review institute some mechanism for feedback from the wider public and other concerned organisations. Specifically we request that the review process includes feedback from, but not limited to, the Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission and the Islamic community in New Zealand. We also request that any person or organisation that wishing to make a submission has the opportunity to do so.

Further, due to the gravitas of the changes that may be proposed as a result of this review, we ask that the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee has an active role in this review. We believe this will help ensure all relevant factors are given due consideration. Such a role should include regular reporting from the DPMC, consideration of provisional recommendations and the opportunity to provide input and feedback. Such an oversight role could mirror the role of a Select Committee in overseeing the passage of legislation.

We also request that there are Select Committee hearings on whatever legislation is proposed. There is precedent for truncated Select Committee hearings for significant legislation passed under urgency.

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We look forward to working towards a result that will ensure the best outcome for all New Zealanders.

Yours faithfully,

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