

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

### **Ministry of Defence letter to Inquiry into the Use of External Security Consultants**

December 2018

This publication provides the Ministry of Defence's response on the States Services Commission Inquiry into the Use of External Security Consultants. It addresses questions raised by the Inquiry Head, particularly regarding the Ministry's engagement of Thompson and Clark Investigations Limited.

Further information about the Inquiry is available from the State Services Commission website: [www.ssc.govt.nz](http://www.ssc.govt.nz).

The pack comprises the 16 August 2018 response letter from the Secretary of Defence to Doug Martin, Inquiry Head. It is entitled *Ministry of Defence Response to Inquiry into the Use of External Security Consultants*.

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: [www.defence.govt.nz/publications](http://www.defence.govt.nz/publications).

The email address of a person supporting the Inquiry and the signature of the Secretary of Defence have been redacted from the document.

Level 4 Freyberg Building, PO Box 12703,  
20 Aitken Street Molesworth Street  
Wellington, New Zealand Wellington 6144, New Zealand  
P +64 (0)4 496 0999  
E info@defence.govt.nz www.defence.govt.nz



New Zealand  
**MINISTRY  
OF DEFENCE**  
Manatū Kaupapa Waonga

16 August 2018

Mr Doug Martin  
Inquiry Head  
State Services Commission Inquiry into the Use of External Security Consultants  
via email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Martin

## **MINISTRY OF DEFENCE RESPONSE TO INQUIRY INTO THE USE OF EXTERNAL SECURITY CONSULTANTS**

Thank you for your letter of 23 July regarding our use of external security consultants.

I can confirm that the Ministry of Defence has not engaged Thompson and Clark Investigations Limited (TCIL) nor its associated entities listed in Appendix 2 of your letter. As recommended in your letter we have reviewed our financial and email records for the period 2008 to the present to provide additional assurance.

The Ministry of Defence does not use platforms such as Wordpress or Slack.

The Ministry does engage with the external vetting agency Employrite to assess new Ministry employee's trustworthiness while their full NZSIS vetted clearances are processed.

The Employrite process involves a database and credit check/analysis via Centrix, a qualifications check, and a Ministry of Justice criminal history check. These checks are always done with the knowledge and consent of the individual.

I am comfortable that this is consistent with the professional expectations of the public service, as expressed in the Code of Conduct.

Do let me know if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Helene Quilter  
**Secretary of Defence**

Cc: Erik Koed, State Services Commission

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