



GOVERNMENT  
COMMUNICATIONS  
SECURITY BUREAU  
TE TIRA TIAKI

## GCSB's role in counter-terrorism

The GCSB is a 'SIGINT', or signals intelligence agency meaning we specialise in intelligence derived from electronic communications. The GCSB has a statutory role in signals intelligence and information assurance and cybersecurity activities.

Everything the GCSB does needs to be in accordance with the objectives in the Intelligence and Security Act 2017 and in accordance with New Zealand's human rights obligations. All of the GCSB's intelligence activity is guided by the Government's National Security and Intelligence Priorities.

The GCSB's role in domestic counter-terrorism is to provide assistance to the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the New Zealand Police at their request. This assistance is primarily technical capabilities and access to foreign intelligence.

Over the past three years the GCSB has taken a series of deliberate steps to enable us to respond effectively to requests for assistance on domestic counter-terrorism, within the legislative and resource constraints we operate under. These steps included putting in place warrants that allow GCSB to gather intelligence about terrorism that do not differentiate between different forms of violent extremism. The GCSB has also focused on building close working relationships NZSIS, New Zealand Police and New Zealand Customs through joint operations and staff secondments.

The GCSB has established processes for responding to changing priorities and requests by other agencies for assistance under the Intelligence and Security Act 2017. As a result GCSB teams can be deployed across a range of intelligence priorities and agency requirements. To develop such teams supported by the right technologies takes time, but once in place are highly effective.

### **The GCSB's response to the Christchurch Terrorist Attacks**

In the aftermath of the March 15 terrorist attacks GCSB received tasking from NZSIS and New Zealand Police. Once tasked the GCSB was quickly able to utilise the above capabilities to make unique and material contributions to the investigation and the wider response.