

11 April 2023

Tēnā koutou and welcome to the 3rd edition of Kāpuia Pānui for 2023.

Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

1. NZSIS and GCSB appear before Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee

The acting Director-General of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) Phil McKee and Director-General of the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) Andrew Hampton appeared before Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee on 27 March 2023. In his opening address, Phil McKee gave an overview of New Zealand's threat environment, violent extremism and foreign interference and espionage – all of which have been changing in recent years. The NZSIS outlined its intelligence impact, which has allowed the agency to identify individuals undertaking intelligence activity and cultivating strategic relationships on behalf of foreign states. The NZSIS noted its intention to publish a security threat environment report in the coming weeks, which seeks to address concerns raised by the RCOI on the need for more public discussion and transparency around issues of national security. The full statement can be found by clicking this [link](#). Meanwhile, in his address Andrew Hampton outlined the GCSB's key achievements and focus areas for the year, including helping to prevent three recent possible domestic terror attacks. The full statement can be found by clicking this [link](#).

Other information

2. Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern delivers valedictory statement

Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern delivered a valedictory statement to draw her time in Parliament to a close. In her statement, the former Prime Minister directly acknowledged March 15 and thanked the Muslim community of Aotearoa New Zealand. The former Prime Minister called for New Zealand as a nation to live up to the expectations of those who experienced the attacks and noted that work must continue in the aftermath of 15 March, including through the work of the Christchurch Call to Action. The full statement can be found by clicking this [link](#).

3. Former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern appointed Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins has appointed Jacinda Ardern as Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call to Action which was set up following the March 15 attacks to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online. The newly created position will represent New Zealand's continued commitment to the initiative. The Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call will report directly to Prime Minister Hipkins. The Special Envoy will serve as New Zealand's senior representative on Christchurch Call-related matters, working closely with France as co-leaders. Ardern will commence her role on 17 April 2023 and the position will be reviewed at the end of 2023. More information can be found by clicking this [link](#).

4. Government building high security data centre in West Auckland

The Government is building a \$300 million data centre to protect information that needs high security and has revealed the project to the public in order to “be more upfront about national security challenges” as recommended by the RCOI. The data centre will be used for protected government information from a broad range of agencies, but not vast amounts of private information about individuals. The data centre will be located within a military base with existing high physical security and is expected to open in 2025.

In the community

5. Upcoming dates of significance

- 5 & 6 April is Passover
- 6 April is the finish of lent
- 7 – 10 April is Easter
- 20 – 21 April is Eid al-Fitr
- 20 April – 5 May is Rivdan

Noho ora mai

The Kāpuia Secretariat