

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Defence
Minister for the Public Service
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's
Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



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Tēnā koe Arihia

Thank you for your letter of 23 March expressing Kāpuia's views on progress of RCOI recommendations 1-3 on national security reform, following briefing on these recommendations by officials at your March hui

I would like to acknowledge your clear and candid advice on the importance of recommendations 1-3 to an effective RCOI response. I have noted your advice that recommendations two and three should be implemented as the RCOI report recommends and that the government needs to invest appropriately to ensure changes to the national security system are successful. I also appreciate your advice on the aspects of recommendations 2-3 that are of most importance to Kāpuia and the communities you represent, in particular that the future national security system must include an appropriate mandate, appropriate leadership structures, independent oversight and accountability measures, and commitment to robust public dialogue on national security issues.

Work is underway to deliver a fit for purpose future national security system. To date, Cabinet has not been presented with options on reform of the national security system, and therefore suggestions that a "plan B" is being recommended would be an overstatement. When these discussions take place, there will also be consideration of whether increased investment is required.

I will be discussing the issue of national security system reform with the Prime Minister and my Cabinet colleagues in the coming weeks and the advice you have provided to me will help inform these discussions. I look forward to engaging with you further on this issue once decisions are made.

Once again, I want to acknowledge the work done by Kāpuia on the response so far and the quality of your advice to me as the Lead Coordination Minister. Your leadership, commitment, and the diversity of your perspectives, play an important role in the government's approach. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that the government's response to the RCOI remains on track and responsive to New Zealand's diverse communities.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Little".

Hon Andrew Little

Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques