



6 April 2010

David Farrar  
Email: [david@farrar.com](mailto:david@farrar.com)

Dear David Farrar,

**Official Information Act Request Relating to Change of Name and Mandate of the External Assessments Bureau**

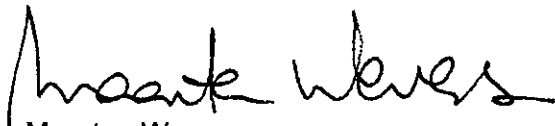
I refer to your official information request of 23 March 2010 for *“any reports, papers, advice, correspondence, memos, e-mails or official information of any kind held by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (including the National Assessments Bureau) relating to the change of name and mandate for the External Assessments Bureau, to become the National Assessments Bureau.”* You indicated that you were *“primarily interested in more details on the rationale for change, and any duplication of roles with other security and intelligence agencies.”*

The change of the mandate of the External Assessments Bureau and name to the National Assessments Bureau has come out of a recent review of the intelligence services. The department that has the lead responsibility for this review is the State Services Commission. The information you have requested is more closely connected to the responsibilities of the State Services Commission and, accordingly, I am transferring your request to the State Services Commission under section 14 of the Official Information Act.

There is some material held by this department that would not be covered by the transfer to the State Services Commission. Enclosed is a copy of a news piece from this department's internal website which informs staff within the department of the change of name and mandate for the National Assessments Bureau. There is also some information available on the department's website at: <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/>. There is some additional information held by the National Assessments Bureau in relation to the review itself. This has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act.

No public interest in this information has been identified, that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it. You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maarten Wevers', written in a cursive style.

Maarten Wevers  
Chief Executive

Search within: [People](#)[Publications &](#)[News &](#)[Admin & Support services](#) [Intranet Homepage](#)[print this page](#)set my homepage to [this page](#)

## News & DPMC News Resources:

### Name change for EAB

#### News

11-Mar-2010

- [News](#)
- [News Archive](#)
- [Vacancies](#)

As some staff will be aware already, EAB has a new name - the National Assessments Bureau (NAB) – and an expanded mandate. The NAB is now responsible for developing a national assessment programme, which will draw on the resources of other agencies besides DPMC, and which is to be targeted at the government's national security agenda and priorities. The NAB is also tasked with establishing quality standards across New Zealand's intelligence community for intelligence assessment and analysis.

#### Events

- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Weekly Schedule](#)
- [Annual Reporting](#)

These changes come from a review last year of the institutional arrangements for New Zealand's intelligence agencies, including the then-EAB. The recommendations were accepted by the Government earlier this month.

#### Resources

- [Links/E-resources](#)
- [DPMC Journals](#)

An implementation process is now under way, in partnership with Corporate Services, the DESG, the Treasury and the State Services Commission, and the other intelligence agencies. The NAB will continue with its existing foreign-assessments function, but it will also need to deliver reporting on domestic security matters, and take up a stronger co-ordination and quality-assurance role.

Another change coming up is that the NAB and the DESG will be moving location. Both are to relocate to the building now under construction for the Government Communications Security Bureau in Pipitea Street. The building is scheduled for occupation a year from now, and so both units are expecting to be on the move around about then.

[Back to News index](#)[News Archive](#)[Site Map](#) | [Feedback](#) | [Search](#) | [Copyright](#) | [Site Help](#)