



OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY

NOTE FROM THE OUTGOING INSPECTOR-GENERAL, CHERYL GWYN

After almost six years as Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security I am leaving the role to take up a position as a High Court Judge. I am grateful to have this opportunity to join the bench, as the next step in a long, varied and rewarding career in the law.

Due to the timing of the judicial appointment process, it is necessary for me to resign as Inspector-General a few months before my term in the role would otherwise expire. Once I have a judicial warrant I may not hold other employment.

The Inspector-General's position is a statutory appointment, now governed by the Intelligence and Security Act 2017 which provides for a maximum time in office. I was first appointed in 2014, for three years, and have completed a large part of my second and final three-year term, which is the maximum time allowed under the Act. My last day as Inspector-General will be Wednesday 31 July.

It has been a challenge and a privilege to help shape intelligence agency oversight in the New Zealand context. The role, while secret in many respects, also needs an outward perspective. I have tried to bring that approach to it and I have valued and learned a great deal from my interactions with different sections of the New Zealand community, including representatives of civil society, the intelligence agencies themselves, commentators, other integrity offices and Government agencies. I have also found it very useful to share experiences and learn from intelligence oversight bodies in other countries and from other international sources of influence.

The Office of the Inspector-General has a varied and full work programme for the year ahead [[2019/2020 work programme](#)]. We have also worked hard to complete a number of reports which will be published in the next few months, including completing the final draft of my report into what involvement, if any, the New Zealand intelligence agencies had with the CIA's rendition and interrogation programme in Afghanistan.

Under the Intelligence and Security Act the Deputy Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security assumes the powers, duties and responsibilities of the Inspector-General if the role is vacant. Madeleine Laracy, the present Deputy, will manage the publication of the report mentioned above and will act as Inspector-General for all other purposes until a permanent Inspector-General is appointed.

I know Madeleine and the small team in the office of the Inspector-General will continue to perform its independent function with integrity and to the highest standards. I thank everyone who has supported me and the work of the office while I have been in this role.

Nga mihi nui,

Cheryl Gwyn