


20 August 2018



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Dear 

SSC Inquiry into the Use of External Security Consultants

I am writing to report to you the results of the internal review requested in the letter from  of 23 July 2018.

I have taken appropriate steps, consistent with the request in the letter of 23 July 2018, to identify any use of and interactions with external security consultants by the Commerce Commission over the last 10 years. This has included searches of our contract, information, and finance systems and also directing questions to staff.

From the review process I can see that engagements with external security consultants have been small in number (less than 20 engagements in total over the 10 years). I am also assured from the process that:

- the use of external security consultants has been appropriate (relating to activities such as personal service, process servers, exhibit returns, location of debtors and information provided in relation to cases undertaken); and
- the usage has been subject to appropriate oversight and controls; and
- the interactions and relationships with external security consultants are consistent with the professional expectations of the public sector as expressed in the Code of Conduct for the state services.

The review has revealed that the Commerce Commission has not engaged Thompson and Clark or any of the associated entities in the period from 1 January 2008 until now. However, I note for the sake of completeness, that we did have some interactions with Thompson and Clark in 2014. This was when they provided evidence connected to an investigation into a potential breach of an Act we enforce. Based on the information I have seen, those interactions were appropriate and do not give cause for concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions, would like further information or if you would like to know more about the process we have been through.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AM', written in a cursive style.

Adrienne Meikle
Chief Executive

cc: commission@ssc.govt.nz