

Why would NZSIS want to talk to me?

In order to fulfil our role and provide advice on security matters to the New Zealand Government, the NZSIS engages with a variety of people from different sectors and communities. There are a number of reasons why the NZSIS may wish to speak with a member of the public. This could include a conversation as part of a security vetting application or as part of an investigation, or we have some security advice to pass on.

If an NZSIS officer contacts me, do I need to meet with them?

NZSIS cannot compel members of the public to meet with us. We rely on people's good will to voluntarily speak with us.

How will I know that the person who says they to work for NZSIS actually does work there?

When an NZSIS officer engages with a member of the public for the first time they will show them their official NZSIS ID. You can also contact the NZSIS public telephone line 0800 SIS 224 (0800 747 224) to verify that the person you are meeting is an NZSIS officer.

Is NZSIS a law enforcement agency?

No. NZSIS has no law enforcement powers (NZ Police in comparison does have law enforcement powers). This means that NZSIS has no powers to detain or arrest members of the public.

Will what I discuss with NZSIS remain confidential?

Anything discussed between members of the public and NZSIS is considered sensitive and is protected within NZSIS's information holdings. However, it is NZSIS's function and responsibility to share information which is relevant to security with other Government agencies and partners. NZSIS will not make such information public and information shared with those with a 'need-to-know' will typically not be attributed to an individual. To ensure the security of its work and intelligence requirements, NZSIS asks those with whom it meets to keep the fact of their meeting with NZSIS and the nature of their discussions confidential.

If I engage with NZSIS, can I end /stop discussions at any stage?

You can stop discussions with NZSIS at any time.

My English is not great; could an interpreter attend the meeting?

If you are concerned about your English language skills, NZSIS may be able to provide an interpreter that speaks your first language. If this is not possible, NZSIS will work with you in order to find a suitable person to assist.

Will the information I provide to NZSIS be shared with other New Zealand Government departments?

Information provided to NZSIS may be shared with other New Zealand Government departments in accordance with our roles and functions. This may relate to our protective security role to provide protective security services, advice, and assistance to any public authority (whether in New Zealand or overseas) or providing advice about national security risks (for example, national security risks associated with citizenship applications and border security).