

MEDIA ALERT

INDEPENDENT NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION MONITOR

INDEPENDENT REVIEW COMMENCES: THE OPERATION OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION (CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PROCEEDINGS) ACT 2004 (CTH) ARISING OUT OF THE MATTER OF ALAN JOHNS (A PSEUDONYM)

Following public interest and debate concerning the operation of the *National Security Information (Criminal and Civil Proceedings) Act 2004* (Cth) ([NSI Act](#)) in the criminal proceedings concerning ‘Alan Johns’, the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor (INSLM), [Dr James Renwick CSC SC](#), has commenced an ‘own motion’ review. A copy of the details of the review is on the INSLM website.

The INSLM has commenced this review in light of the publicly known facts which reveal that there has been an apparently unique set of circumstances in modern Australia where a person was charged, arraigned, pleaded guilty, sentenced and served his sentence with minimal public knowledge of the details of the crime, as a result of consent orders which were not the subject of published judicial reasons.

There is a great deal of public speculation about the nature of the charges and conviction against Mr Johns and the evidence supporting them. Although the INSLM has no authority to publicly reveal classified matters, interested parties may be assured that his review of the operation of the NSI Act in this specific case will be thorough and that he will review all relevant material, including the charges, evidence, submissions and transcripts of the closed proceedings, irrespective of national security classification or sensitivity. All that can be made public will be included in the INSLM’s final unclassified annual report to the Attorney-General, due 30 June 2020.

The INSLM notes that this review will not examine the operation, effectiveness and implications of the entire NSI Act; rather, it will assess the Act’s operation and provisions relating to this specific matter.

About the Independent National Security Legislation Monitor

The INSLM is an independent officeholder appointed by the Governor-General under the INSLM Act; and is responsible for the ongoing review of the operation, effectiveness and implications of Australia’s counter-terrorism and national security legislation. The INSLM has coercive powers, can compel answers to questions and has access to all relevant material, regardless of national security classification. INSLM reports are provided to the Attorney-General, the Prime Minister or the PJCIS and are tabled promptly in Parliament.

Please refer to the [INSLM website](#) for further information.

FOR ENQUIRIES ON THE INSLM AND THIS REVIEW

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