



Should the Government be closely monitoring people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups?

The issue:

In November 2014, Prime Minister John Key announced that around 80 New Zealanders are either on a watch-list of people currently being monitored, or on a list of people to be investigated by the Government in relation to international terrorist activity. In his speech on national security, The Prime Minister announced proposed short-term changes to security laws that would allow the Government to more closely monitor the people on these watch-lists and to suspend or cancel their passports.

Given that these proposed law changes would significantly increase the Government's surveillance powers, we decided to conduct a poll to gauge public support for these changes. The interviewing for this poll was completed with a nationally representative sample of n=575 New Zealanders, 18 years of age or more, between the 4th and 20th of February 2015, and therefore after the terrorist events in Sydney (on 15–16 December 2014, a lone gunman, Man Haron Monis, held hostage ten customers and eight employees of a Lindt chocolate café located at Martin Place) and Paris (on the morning of 7 January 2015, at about 11:30 AM local time, two Islamist terrorists armed with assault rifles and other weapons forced their way into the offices of the satirical weekly newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*).

This poll was piloted in November 2014 with a relatively small sample of n=70 respondents. Despite the relatively small sample, the results for the pilot poll are provided in this report as there are significant differences between the results of the November 2014 poll (before the events in Sydney and Paris) and the February 2015 poll.

The poll question:

The following questions were asked:

- 1. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?*
- 2. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?*
- 3. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?*



Key results:

The results to this question are presented in Table 1 to 3:

Table 1: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups.

Q6. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	February 2015	Pilot Poll November 2014
Unweighted base=	575	70
	%	%
Yes	70	71
No	12	14
Don't know/Don't care	18	15
Total	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders.

Q7. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	February 2015	Pilot Poll November 2014
Unweighted base=	575	70
	%	%
Yes	67	53
No	23	41
Don't know/Don't care	10	6
Total	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored.

Q8. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	February 2015	Pilot Poll November 2014
Unweighted base=	575	70
	%	%
Yes	85	80
No	8	14
Don't know/Don't care	7	6
Total	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Overall, we found that most New Zealanders believed that New Zealanders who have close ties to international terrorist organisations pose a safety risk and should be closely monitored (Tables 1-3).

- ◆ As shown in Table 1, 70 percent of respondents interviewed in February 2015 believed that there are currently 80 or more people living in New Zealand that have close ties to international terrorist organisations. Further, just 12 percent said that they did not believe there were 80 or more of these people in New Zealand and 18 percent were unsure.
- ◆ When respondents were asked whether these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders, 67 percent answered in the affirmative. In contrast, slightly less than one-quarter (23 percent) felt that these people do not pose a threat and 10 percent were unsure or said that they did not care (Table 2).
- ◆ Finally, a significant majority (85 percent) said that these people should be closely monitored, while just eight percent disagreed and said that they should not be monitored. A further seven percent were unsure or did not care (Table 3).

As the November 2014 pilot poll was conducted prior to the terrorist attacks in Sydney and Paris, we have included the pilot results in this report because there is a significant difference compared to the results of the February 2015 poll. Specifically, the percentage of respondents who felt that the people on the Government's watch-list pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders significantly increased from 53 percent in November 2014 to 67 percent in February 2015.

Demographic differences:

We have also analysed the results for the November 2015 poll by a number of demographic variables including; age, gender, location, urbanicity and education. Of significance is the fact that all population groups, defined on the basis of these variables, believed that there could be as many as 80 New Zealanders with close ties to international terrorist, that these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders, and that these people should be closely monitored

The only significant differences observed were in relation to education status and urbanicity. For example, respondents with a higher level of education (i.e. had a bachelor's degree or higher), were significantly less likely than other groups defined on the basis of their educational status to believe that there could be as many as 80 New Zealanders with close ties to international terrorist, that these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders, and that these people should be closely monitored.

In regards to urbanicity, respondents who lived in a large town or city (with a population greater than 10,000) were significantly less likely than those living in provincial and rural centres to believe that the individuals on these Government watch-lists pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders.



Comment:

“There is clearly significant concern among New Zealanders regarding the threat that these individuals pose and this concern is reflected in high-levels of support for the Government’s proposed security-related law changes”, said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

The Research New Zealand poll was conducted with 575 people aged 18 years and over, by telephone from the 4th to the 20th of February 2015. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.4 percent (at the 95 percent confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of the general population of New Zealand. The polls were not taken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand’s monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

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TABULATIONS

Table 4: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups by gender.

Q. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	Unweighted base=	Total Sample 575 %	Male 250 %	Female 325 %
Yes		70	72	68
No		12	13	11
Don't know/Don't care		18	15	20
Total		100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups by age.

Q. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	Unweighted base=	Total Sample 575 %	18-34 102 %	35-54 197 %	55+ 276 %
Yes		70	64	72	74
No		12	15	11	11
Don't know/Don't care		18	21	18	15
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 6: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups by location.

Q. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	Unweighted base=	Total Sample 575 %	Upper North Island 263 %	Lower/Central North Island 111 %	South Island 201 %
Yes		70	72	65	71
No		12	10	20	11
Don't know/Don't care		18	18	15	18
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 7: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups by urbanicity.

Q. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	Total Sample	Rural area or small town with a population less than 10,000	Large town or city with a population greater than 10,000	Don't know
Unweighted base=	575	193	366	16*
	%	%	%	%
Yes	70	70	71	52
No	12	10	14	0
Don't know/Don't care	18	20	15	48
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 8: Agreement that there are as many as 80 people in New Zealand with close ties to international terrorist groups by education status.

Q. Recent events in Sydney and Paris have, again, placed the focus on the work of terrorist groups. Prime Minister John Key has said that over 80 people living in New Zealand are being closely monitored because they have close ties with international terrorist groups. Do you believe there could be as many as 80 of these people living in New Zealand?

	Total Sample	None/No qualifications	NCEA, School Certificate or other secondary school qualification	Polytechnic qualification or Trade certificate	Bachelor's degree or higher	Other/ Don't know
Unweighted base=	575	56	174	146	174	25*
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	70	66	76	75	61	80
No	12	8	10	10	18	8
Don't know/Don't care	18	26	14	15	22	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 9: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders by gender.

Q. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	Male 250 %	Female 325 %
Yes		67	67	68
No		23	22	23
Don't know/Don't care		10	11	9
Total		100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 10: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders by age.

Q. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	18-34 102 %	35-54 197 %	55+ 276 %
Yes		67	67	63	73
No		23	21	27	19
Don't know/Don't care		10	11	10	9
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 11: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders by location.

Q. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	Upper North Island 263 %	Lower/Central North Island 111 %	South Island 201 %
Yes		67	66	69	69
No		23	24	21	21
Don't know/Don't care		10	10	10	10
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 12: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders by urbanicity.

Q. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	Total sample	Rural area or small town with a population less than 10,000	Large town or city with a population greater than 10,000	Other/ Don't know
Unweighted base=	575 %	193 %	366 %	16* %
Yes	67	73	65	67
No	23	19	25	11
Don't know/Don't care	10	9	10	22
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 13: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups pose a safety threat to New Zealanders by education status.

Q. Do you believe these people pose a threat to the safety of New Zealanders?

	Total sample	None/No qualifications	NCEA, School Certificate or other secondary school qualification	Polytechnic qualification or Trade certificate	Bachelor's degree or higher	Other/ Don't know
Unweighted base=	575 %	56 %	174 %	146 %	174 %	25* %
Yes	67	73	66	75	60	81
No	23	14	25	18	27	12
Don't know/Don't care	10	12	9	7	13	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 14: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored by gender.

Q. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	Male 250 %	Female 325 %
Yes		85	87	83
No		8	7	10
Don't know/Don't care		7	6	7
Total		100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 15: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored by age.

Q. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	18-34 102 %	35-54 197 %	55+ 276 %
Yes		85	81	84	88
No		8	12	7	7
Don't know/Don't care		7	7	8	5
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 16: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored by location.

Q. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	Unweighted base=	Total sample 575 %	Upper North Island 263 %	Lower/Central North Island 111 %	South Island 201 %
Yes		85	81	86	88
No		8	10	8	7
Don't know/Don't care		7	9	6	5
Total		100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.
Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 17: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored by urbanicity.

Q. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	Total sample	Rural area or small town with a population less than 10,000	Large town or city with a population greater than 10,000	Other/ Don't know
Unweighted base=	575	193	366	16*
	%	%	%	%
Yes	85	85	85	79
No	8	9	8	0
Don't know/Don't care	7	6	7	21
Total	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 18: Agreement that people living in New Zealand who have close ties to international terrorist groups should be monitored by education status.

Q. Do you believe they should be closely monitored?

	Total sample	None/No qualifications	NCEA, School Certificate or other secondary school qualification	Polytechnic qualification or Trade certificate	Bachelor's degree or higher	Other/ Don't know
Unweighted base=	575	56	174	146	174	25*
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	85	84	85	90	80	90
No	8	11	10	6	8	5
Don't know/Don't care	7	6	5	4	12	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

The base numbers shown are unweighted counts.

*Caution low base numbers – results are indicative only.

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.