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**THE HON KAREN ANDREWS MP
MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS**

Ref No: MS21-002153

Senator James Paterson
Chair of Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair *James*

I am writing pursuant to subparagraph 29(1)(b)(i) of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001* to refer the National Security Legislation Amendment (Comprehensive Review and Other Measures No. 1) Bill 2021 (the Bill) to your Committee for inquiry and report.

The Bill is the first major piece of legislation to implement the Government's response to the Comprehensive Review of the Legal Framework of the National Intelligence Community. The Bill also includes reforms recommended by the 2017 Independent Intelligence Review, as well as other measures intended to address key operational challenges facing Australia's intelligence agencies.

The Bill seeks to address the challenges of an evolving threat environment, increasing complexity of online activities and the emergence of non-state actors by aligning agency powers, enhancing cooperation, modernising legislative provisions and clarifying the intention of the legislation to increase transparency. These are targeted measures that address particular operational barriers posed by existing legislation.

In accordance with clause 20 of Schedule 1 of the *Intelligence Services Act 2001*, I have sought the approval of the appropriate Ministers, and subject to your agreement, the Committee should, as far as possible, conduct its inquiry in public.

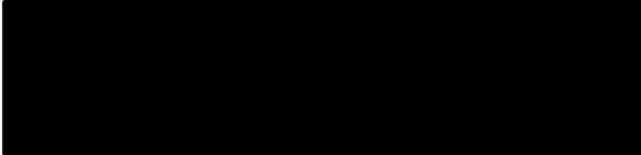
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I have copied this letter to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, the Attorney-General, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, the Minister for Defence, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Marise Payne.

Yours sincerely



KAREN ANDREWS

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