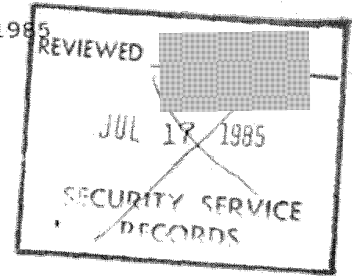


Canadian Security Intelligence Service / Service canadien du renseignement de sécurité

1200 prom. Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R2

April 12, 1985



Mr. Ronald G. Atkey, P.C., Q.C.
Chairman
Security Intelligence Review Committee
P.O. Box 2430, Station "D"
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5W5

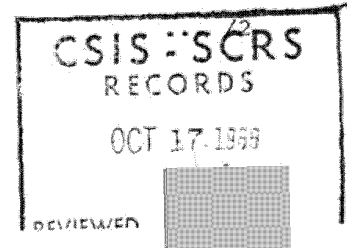
Dear Mr. Atkey:

This refers to your letter dated March 29, 1985 in which you requested information as to whether homosexuality is a ground for discharge or denial of a security clearance for an employee of the Service. I am taking the liberty of replying to you in Mr. Finn's absence in view of your request for a response prior to April 19, 1985. Please be advised that the Service does not have a stated policy on this issue. New entrants are engaged based on their qualifications and internal selections are made on merit. However, in all situations careful consideration must be given to an individual's susceptibility to undue influence or duress in recognition of the duties to be performed.

Your question should also be addressed in the context of government-wide security screening practices. Homosexuality in itself is not necessarily a bar to the holding of a security clearance. It is regarded in the same light as any other feature of loyalty. The relevance of homosexuality to security, therefore, can only be judged in its full contextual circumstance. Investigation and reporting of such cases must go beyond the simple identification of a person as a homosexual and provide as full an appreciation as possible of how the person copes with his or her homosexuality, with emphasis upon whether the person is embarrassed or secretive about it so as to assess if the subject would be vulnerable to compromise, blackmail or indiscretion.

You will recognize that I am not in a position to comment on policies of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or the Armed Forces. However, due to the relative small size of the Service, it is possible not to have stated policies in all areas but to assess situations on an individual basis based on the factors involved. In addition, one of the major ways in which we are attempting to civilianize the Service is to avoid the issuance of detailed guidelines and regulations and to rely on the intelligent and humane application of broad policies.

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Therefore, in summary, homosexuality in itself, is not grounds for discharge nor denial of a security clearance of an employee of the Service. It is hoped that the above will meet your immediate requirement. Should you require additional information on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me at

[REDACTED]

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Acting Director