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2015 Corruption Perceptions Index

27 January 2016

Transparency International New Zealand

Corruption Free? – NZ drops again

New Zealand has fallen to fourth place in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). This is its second consecutive drop in a survey it has previously topped 7 times because of the corruption-free reputation of its public sector.

"Our government must act immediately to reestablish New Zealand's stand-out reputation for a trusted public sector", says Transparency International New Zealand Chair, Suzanne Snively. "New Zealand trades on its corruption free reputation."

"There are steps that can be taken immediately to reestablish New Zealand's exemplary reputation for a trusted public sector" says Snively. "through this, New Zealanders can gain greater returns from all the different things they do – teaching, farming, fishing, tourism, film, sport - because of our country's reputation for integrity."

The CPI is produced each year to highlight the global importance of transparency. Dropping to fourth place has huge disadvantages for New Zealand, both from a governing and economic perspective.

Denmark, Finland and Sweden are now perceived to have the least corrupt public sectors. New Zealand which was ranked number one in both the 2012 and 2013 surveys, fell behind Denmark in the 2014 CPI and then Sweden and Finland as well in the just-released 2015 survey.

Further downgrades in New Zealand's scores are likely if areas such as access to information and governance of the environment fail to keep pace with the trends in northern European countries

"A clean reputation makes us attractive to do business with and secures qualified migrants and confident tourists. New Zealand's high ranking on the TI-CPI is a factor that gives this credibility. The fall in score and rank is a wake-up call to the Government and Public Sector. Only when we make corruption prevention routine and comprehensive can we move ahead of the northern European countries and reclaim a number1 ranking," adds Snively.

She continues, "With a commitment to a reputation for the world's highest integrity, the Government has an opportunity to take a strong leadership role in inspiring businesses

and communities to build on the value integrity brings to creating a more prosperous society."

Background information for journalists

1. **Media contact:**

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2. **Transparency International**

Transparency International is a global civil society coalition leading the fight against corruption. It compiles a number of measures of different aspects of corruption including the Corruption Perceptions Index, the Global Corruption Barometer, and the Bribe Payers Index. Information on Transparency International can be found at www.transparency.org and detailed information on the Corruption Perceptions Index can be found at www.transparency.org/cpi.

3. **The Corruption Perceptions Index**

The CPI scores and ranks 168 countries/territories based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index, a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. The CPI is the most widely used indicator of corruption worldwide.

Top performers share key characteristics: high levels of press freedom; access to budget information so the public knows where money comes from and how it is spent; high levels of integrity among people in power; and judiciaries that don't differentiate between rich and poor, and that are truly independent from other parts of government.

4. **About TINZ**

Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) is the local chapter of the global organisation - <http://www.transparency.org.nz/>. TINZ works to actively promote the highest levels of transparency, accountability, integrity and public participation in government and civil society in New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Transparency International New Zealand provides a free [Anti-Corruption Training Tool](http://transparency.org.nz/Anti-Corruption-Training) (transparency.org.nz/Anti-Corruption-Training) designed by leading experts in the field, and enables organisations to provide training for their personnel. This was developed in partnership with the Serious Fraud Office and BusinessNZ

Transparency International New Zealand published the [Integrity Plus 2013 New Zealand National Integrity System Assessment](#) and is actively engaged in the implementation of its recommendations.

(<http://transparency.org.nz/2013/Integrity-Plus-2013-New-Zealand-National-Integrity-System-Assessment>)

5. **New Zealand's recent rankings:**

2012 Rank No 1 Score 90
2013 Rank No 1 Score 91
2014 Rank No 2 Score 91
2015 Rank No 4 Score 88

6. **CPI Documents from Transparency International**

[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 report](#)
[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 TI Media Release](#)
[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 frequently asked questions](#)
[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 data](#)
[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 data sources](#)
[Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 Heat Map](#)

7. Areas of assessment where New Zealand can monitor its scores and improve include:

- Access to Information
- Order and Security
- Fundamental Rights and Civil Justice
- Lack of Constraints on Government Powers and Criminal Justice
- Absence of Corruption
- Regulatory Enforcement
- Open Government.

8. Events that occurred or were reported in late 2015 may not be reflected in New Zealand's TI-CPI ranking until the 2016 CPI. This is because our TI-CPI scores were compiled from seven reputable data sources, each with a specific timeframe and latency.

9. **Australia**

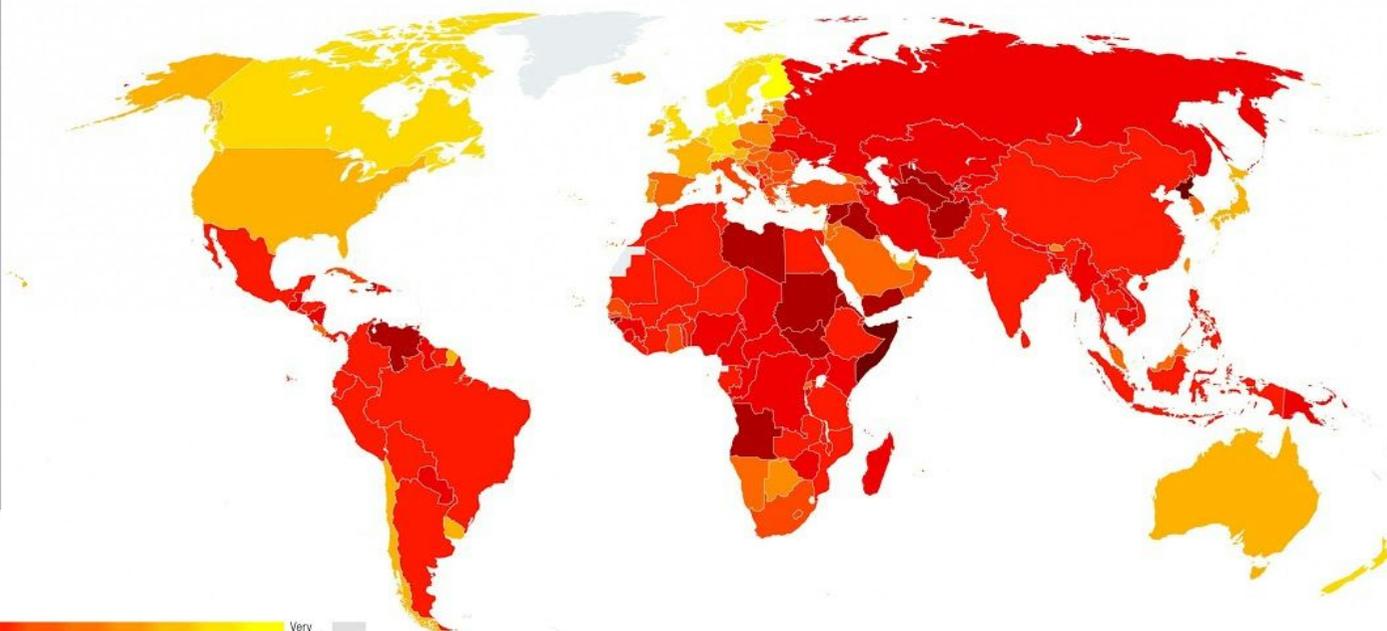
Australia's score fell from 80 to 79 and its ranking fell from 11 to 13. The bottom two rankings in the 2015 CPI were North Korea and Somalia.

10. **Asia Pacific CPI**

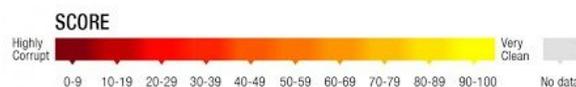
Srirak Plipat, Transparency International Director for Asia Pacific, noted in the CPI report, "If there was one common challenge to unite the Asia Pacific region, it would be corruption. From campaign pledges to media coverage to civil society forums, corruption dominates discussion. Yet despite all this talk, there's little sign of action. Between Australia's slipping scores and North Korea's predictably disastrous performance, this year's index shows no significant improvement. Has Asia Pacific stalled in its efforts to fight corruption?"

CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX 2015

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 168 countries/territories around the world.



RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
1	Denmark	91
2	Finland	90
3	Sweden	89
4	New Zealand	88
5	Netherlands	87
5	Norway	87
7	Switzerland	86
8	Singapore	85
9	Canada	83
10	Germany	81
10	Luxembourg	81
10	United Kingdom	81
13	Australia	79
13	Iceland	79
15	Belgium	77
16	Austria	76
16	United States	76
18	Hong Kong	75
18	Ireland	75
18	Japan	75



RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE	RANK	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	SCORE
21	Uruguay	74	40	Costa Rica	55	61	Italy	44	76	Thailand	38	99	Djibouti	34
22	Qatar	71	40	Latvia	55	61	Lesotho	44	76	Tunisia	38	99	Gabon	34
23	Chile	70	40	Chile	70	61	Montenegro	44	76	Tunisia	38	99	Niger	34
23	Estonia	70	40	Seychelles	55	61	Senegal	44	76	Zambia	38	103	Dominican Republic	33
23	France	70	44	Rwanda	54	61	South Africa	44	83	Benin	37	123	Gambia	28
23	United Arab Emirates	70	45	Jordan	53	66	Sao Tome and Principe	42	83	China	37	103	Ethiopia	33
27	Bhutan	65	45	Mauritius	53	66	The FYR of Macedonia	42	83	Colombia	37	103	Kosovo	33
28	Botswana	63	45	Namibia	53	66	Turkey	42	83	Liberia	37	103	Moldova	33
28	Portugal	63	48	Georgia	52	66	Bulgaria	41	88	Sri Lanka	37	107	Argentina	32
30	Poland	62	48	Saudi Arabia	52	69	Jamaica	41	88	Albania	36	107	Belarus	32
30	Taiwan	62	50	Bahrain	51	69	Serbia	40	88	Algeria	36	107	Côte d'Ivoire	32
30	Cyprus	61	50	Croatia	51	71	El Salvador	39	88	Egypt	36	107	Ecuador	32
32	Israel	61	50	Hungary	51	72	Mongolia	39	88	Indonesia	36	107	Togo	32
32	Lithuania	61	50	Slovakia	51	72	Panama	39	88	Morocco	36	112	Honduras	31
32	Lithuania	61	54	Malaysia	50	72	Trinidad and Tobago	39	88	Peru	36	112	Malawi	31
35	Slovenia	60	55	Kuwait	49	72	Bosnia and Herzegovina	38	88	Suriname	36	112	Mauritania	31
36	Spain	58	56	Cuba	47	76	Brazil	38	95	Armenia	35	112	Mozambique	31
37	Czech Republic	56	56	Ghana	47	76	Romania	38	95	Mali	35	112	Vietnam	31
37	Korea (South)	56	58	Greece	46	76	Burkina Faso	38	95	Mexico	35	117	Pakistan	30
37	Malta	56	58	Romania	46	76	India	38	95	Philippines	35	117	Tanzania	30
40	Cape Verde	55	60	Oman	45	76			99	Bolivia	34	119	Azerbaijan	29
												139	Guinea	25
												139	Kenya	25
												139	Laos	25
												139	Niger	25
												139	Papua New Guinea	25
												139	Uganda	25
												145	Central African Republic	24
												146	Congo Republic	23
												147	Chad	22
												147	Democratic Republic of the Congo	22
												150	Burundi	21
												150	Cambodia	21
												150	Zimbabwe	21
												153	Uzbekistan	19
												154	Eritrea	18
												154	Syria	18
												154	Turkmenistan	18
												154	Yemen	18
												158	Haiti	17
												158	Guinea-Bissau	17
												158	Venezuela	17
												161	Iraq	16
												161	Libya	16
												163	Angola	15
												163	South Sudan	15
												165	Sudan	12
												166	Afghanistan	11
												167	Korea (North)	8
												167	Somalia	8