



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: R26719362

**FOI 002/16/17 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*“All internal communications that were generated internally for my prior FOI request number 383/15/16. Communications of this FOI request should include (but not be limited to): written notes, emails and phone calls (or meta data surrounding phone calls, such as duration, origin and destination).”*

*Excluding mobile telephone numbers, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request. In addition, exclude duplicates of documents and documents sent to and from you.*

**FOI decision maker**

2. I am the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

3. I identified 12 documents as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to release 12 documents in full.

**Material taken into account**

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
  - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
  - c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act;
  - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines); and
  - e. advice received from officers within the department specifically – Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG), Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group (SP&I) and Directorate of Information Access (DIA).

## Reasons for decision

### Section 22 – Edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

6. Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if an agency or Minister decides to:

*(i) refuse access to an exempt document; or*

*(ii) that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access;*

and it is reasonably practicable to prepare a copy of the document modified by deletions, the agency or Minister must give the applicant access to the edited copy.

7. Considering all of the above, I decided that it was reasonable practicable to remove the irrelevant material and release the document in that form.

### Further Information

7. The applicant requested internal communications including phone calls or meta data surrounding phone calls, such as duration, origin and destination. I have provided a sample document at Item 1 Serial 12 which details a call between an FOI case manager and an officer from the line area of CIOG. My assumption is that this call was to discuss FOI 383/15/16 as the case manager addresses an email to the line area, with ..”As discussed...” The email has been provided and is at Item 1 Serial 3. The level of detail contained within Item 1 Serial 12 does not reflect either the nature of the call or the basis of the conversation. It is not departmental practice to record internal telephone calls.

8. It is important for the applicant to note that the applicant’s case is one of many FOI cases that are managed on a daily basis. Multiple calls are made each day between FOI case management and the various line areas across Defence in relation to these requests.

9. I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the documents in the scope of the request.

jan.andrew

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Digitally signed by jan.andrews  
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Ms Jan Andrews  
 Accredited Decision Maker  
 Associate Secretary Group

5 August 2016