



Australian Government
Department of Defence

FOI 022/17/18 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:

“...I am seeking access to documents, specifically reports, executive/ministerial briefings and attachments, Senate Estimate Hearing reports, photos/CCTV/video footage (including footage from mobile phones, body worn cameras) produced since 1 January, 2015, relating to existing/planned underground bunkers/shelters such as Symonston ACT.

Please include documents details funding, staff, resources to build and maintain the facilities along with details about who has access to them in the event of a terrorism threat or attack.

Excluding personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeys numbers and mobile telephone numbers, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request. In addition, excluding duplicates of documents...”

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 one document as matching the description of the request.

Decision

4. I have decided to:

- a. partially release one document in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant material deleted] of the FOI Act, on the grounds that the deleted material is considered exempt under section 33 [documents affecting national security, defence or international relations] of the FOI Act; and
- b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

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 from Royal Australian Air Force.

Reasons for decision

Section 33 – Documents affecting national security, defence or international relations

6. Section 33(a)(i) and (b) exempt documents that affect Australia’s national security, defence or international relations. The exemption comprises two distinct categories of documents. A document is exempt if disclosure:

- (a) *would, or could reasonably be expected to, cause damage to the Commonwealth’s security, defence or international relations; or*
- (b) *disclosure would divulge information communicated in confidence to the Commonwealth by a foreign government, an agency of a foreign government or an international organisation*

7. Publication of information detailing the role, construction characteristics and occupancy of certain facilities may result in adversaries becoming aware of Australian operational procedures. I find that the release of this information could reasonably be expected to damage the Commonwealth’s security and defence and is exempt under section 33(a)(i) of the FOI Act.

craig.patterson
4@defence.go
v.au

Digitally signed by
 craig.patterson4@defence.gov.au
 DN:
 cn=craig.patterson4@defence.go
 v.au
 Date: 2017.08.04 12:55:57 +10'00'

Craig Patterson
 Accredited Decision Maker
 Estate and Infrastructure Group

4 August 2017