



R35417419

FOI 047/18/19 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 emails sent to or by Defence Minister Marise Payne from 16 Aug 15 to 16 Aug 18 that mention the words gender neutral”

FOI decision maker

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

Documents identified

3. I identified 22 documents as matching the description of the request.
4. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents.
5. I have added an FOI reference number and Item/Serial number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.

Decision

6. I have decided to partially release 22 documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] and under section 47F [public interest conditional exemptions-personal privacy] of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

7. 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; and
 - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

Reasons for decision

Section 47F - Personal privacy

8. Upon examination of the documents, I identified information, specifically names, positions and other personal information belonging to people other than the applicant. This material satisfies the definition of personal information in section 4 of the FOI Act. In accordance with section 47F(2) of the FOI Act, in determining whether the disclosure of the identified personal information would be reasonable, I had regard to:

- a. the extent to which the information is well known:

- b. whether the person to whom the information relates is known to be, or have been, associated with the matters dealt with in the documents; and
- c. the availability of the information from publicly accessible sources.

9. Against those criteria, I found that:

- a. the specific personal information is not well known to the general community;
- b. the persons to whom the information relates is not known to be, or to have been, associated with the matters dealt with in the documents; or
- c. the specific information is not readily available from publicly accessible sources.

10. Noting the findings against the above criteria, I decided that the disclosure of this information would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of personal information belonging to a person other than the applicant. Notwithstanding the above, I found that the documents could be released with the specific material removed. Accordingly, I considered this material to be conditionally exempt under section 47F of the FOI Act.

Justine.Nordin Digitally signed by Justine.Nordin
Date: 2018.10.15 11:51:29 +11'00'

Justine Nordin
Accredited Decision Maker
Associate Secretary Group