



Australian Government
Department of Defence

FOI 170/16/17 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:

“...PGPA S23 documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 to establish the demand requirement for these services from ROB DOBSON & ASSOCIATES PTY LTD

Item 1 Contract number ID CN3377639, value \$945,904.00

Item 2 Contract number ID CN3381025, value \$53,490.58

Item 3 Contract number ID CN3331126, value \$1,307,001.63

Item 4 Contract number ID CN3315820, value \$1,031,839.78

Item 5 Contract number ID CN3308021, value \$905,739.04.”

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 four documents matching the description of Items 1, 3, 4 and 5 of the request.

Decision

4. I have decided to:

- a. release four documents in full;
- b. refuse access to one document of the request under subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) [Requests may be refused if documents cannot be found, do not exist or have not been received] of the FOI Act; and
- c. 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; and
- 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 Chief Information Officer Group (CIOG) and Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG).

Reasons for decision

6. Section 24A(1) of the FOI Act states;

24A Requests may be refused if documents cannot be found, do not exist or have not been received

Documents lost or non-existent

(1) An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:

- (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document; and*
- (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:*
 - (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or*
 - (ii) does not exist.*

7. Searches were conducted of the Resource and Output Management and Accounting Network (ROMAN), Defence's core financial transaction system and no documents matching the description of Item 2 were located. Advice received from CIOG indicates that the Aus Tender record is incorrect, as the data entry into Aus Tender is a manual process, rather than an automatic electronic transfer of data.

8. I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the documents matching the request. Accordingly, I am satisfied that the documents cannot be found or do not exist, and refuse access to Item 2 under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

Adrian.Sa
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Digitally signed by
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Mr Adrian Sancataldo
Accredited Decision Maker
CIOG Group

31 January 2017