



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Defence Support and Reform Group

Ministerial and Information  
Management Branch  
Department of Defence

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Our reference: FOI 250/13/14



By email: 

Dear .

1. I refer to your email, dated 24 January 2014, in which you requested access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), to:

*"...the final itinerary and meeting schedule for any visits to Indonesia by any member/s of the senior Defence leadership since 1 September 2013."*

**Background**

2. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the decision relating to the documents that are the subject of your request.

**FOI decision maker**

3. Mr Tony Corcoran, Assistant Secretary, Ministerial and Information Management is the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

4. Mr Corcoran identified six documents as matching the scope of your request. The documents are listed on the schedule of documents at Enclosure 1.

## Decision

5. Mr Corcoran has decided to release five of the identified documents intact and one with material removed, in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act, as it is considered exempt under section 47F [public interest conditional exemptions – personal privacy] of the FOI Act.

6. Some material in the documents identified as Documents 4 and 6 on the schedule of documents was removed, in accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act, as it is considered irrelevant to the scope of the request.

## Material taken into account

7. In making his decision Mr Corcoran had regard to:

- a. the terms of the request;
- b. the content of the identified document 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. the Principles on open public sector information issued by the Information Commissioner

## Section 47F

8. A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under the FOI Act would involve unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person). In accordance with section 47F(2) of the FOI Act, in determining whether the disclosure of this information would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information, Mr Corcoran had regard to the following matters:

- a. the extent to which the information is well known;
- b. whether the person to whom the information relates is known to be (or to have been) associated with the matters dealt with in the document; and
- c. the availability of the information from the publicly accessible sources.

9. Mr Corcoran found that one of the identified documents within the scope of the request contained the personnel identification number of an ADF member. He considered this information constituted personal information under section 47F of the FOI Act. While it is possible this information is known to certain elements, Mr Corcoran was satisfied it is not well known to the general community. Further, this information is not available from publicly accessible sources.

10. Having considered the above, Mr Corcoran decided that the disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable disclosure of personal information belonging to persons other than you. Accordingly, he considered this material to be conditionally exempt under section 47F of the FOI Act.

**Public interest considerations – section 47F**

11. In assessing whether disclosure of the conditionally exempt material is, on balance, contrary to the public interest, Mr Corcoran considered the guidelines provided by the Australian Information Commissioner, together with a range of factors that favour access to a document as set out in section 11B(3) of the FOI Act.

12. Mr Corcoran considered the public interest in promoting the objects of the FOI Act have been satisfied and did not believe the release of personal information, such as personnel identification numbers, would inform public debate on any matter of public importance in a meaningful way. Additionally, disclosure of this information would not promote oversight of public expenditure or allow a person to access his or her own personal information.

**Payment of Charges**

13. In our letter, dated 4 February 2014, after deducting the free decision making time, the department estimated the cost associated with processing your request to be [REDACTED]. You agreed to pay charges for the administration of your request on 11 February 2014, an invoice for the preliminary assessment deposit of [REDACTED] was subsequently sent directly from Defence Finance.

14. Upon completion of your request, after deducting the free decision making time, the actual amount for processing was calculated to be [REDACTED]. The remaining balance is the difference between actual charges and the deposit you have already paid.

15. Accordingly you are required to pay the remaining [REDACTED] in order to finalise your request. Please find attached at Enclosure 3 a Payment Authorisation Form for the balance. Once you have completed the form please return to [foi@defence.gov.au](mailto:foi@defence.gov.au).

**Rights of review**

16. The FOI Act provides for rights of review of decisions. A copy of the fact sheet, "Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights", setting out your rights of review is at Enclosure 2.

**FOI Disclosure Log**

17. In accordance with the requirements of section 11C of the FOI Act, Defence is required to publish details of information released under the FOI Act. Defence publishes identified documents relating to requests within five working days of receipt by the applicant. Defence will also publish this decision notice with privacy deletions.

**Further information**

18. The FOI Act may be accessed at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2011C00803>.

19. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact me directly on (07) 3332 6359. Alternatively, the FOI team can also be contacted on the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Theresa Stinson  
Assistant Director – Media Case Management  
Freedom of Information

24 February 2014

Enclosures:

1. Schedule of documents
2. Fact Sheet: Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights
3. Payment Authorisation Form