



**FOI 278/17/18 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 would like to make a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.*

*My request is as follows:*

*"Documents, including briefings, memos, submissions, correspondence, reports and other material, addressing the biggest obstacles to Australia becoming a top ten global defence exporter. I would like to confine my inquiry to documents created within the last 60 days and to exclude media releases and Defence Export Strategy document itself. Excluding the email addresses and contact phone numbers of staff identified"*

**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 have identified three documents as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to:

- a. release two documents in full;
- b. partially release one document in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act, on the grounds that the deleted material is considered exempt under section 33(a)(iii) [documents affecting the international relations of the Commonwealth] of the FOI Act.
- 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;
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines);

**Reasons for decision**

6. Section 33(a) (iii) of the FOI Act exempts a document that would, or could reasonably be expected to, cause damage to the international relations of the Commonwealth. In examining the documents I identified material that, if released, could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the Australian Government's working relations with other governments. Accordingly, I consider the release of this information is exempt under section 33(a)(iii) of the FOI Act.

**StuartSpence** Digitally signed by  
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Date: 2018.03.01  
12:26:20 +11'00'

Mr Stuart Spence  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Strategic Policy and Intelligence Group

1 Mar 2018