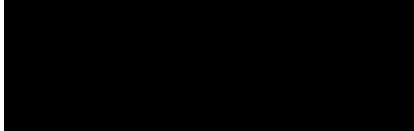




**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Freedom of Information  
CP1-6-001  
PO Box 7910  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610  
Tel: 02 626 62200  
Fax: 02 626 62112  
FOI@defence.gov.au

Our reference: FOI 280/15/16



By email: [Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

**NOTICE OF DECISION ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

1. I refer to your correspondence, dated 10 March 2016, in which you requested access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), to:

*“digital copies of the debris photo's taken by RAAF personnel (or any others you might have) during the MH370 aerial search from the 18th and up to and including the 27th of March 2014, in the initial southern search area before the move north.”*

**Background**

2. You agreed to a 30 day extension to process your request on 10 May 2016. The statutory deadline for you to receive a response to your request is 18 June 2016.
3. I note that the above mentioned due date is a Saturday. In accordance with the FOI Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner, if the last day for notifying a decision falls on a Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday, the timeframe will expire on the first day following which is none of those days. As such, the due date for you to receive a response is 20 June 2016.
4. 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**

5. Group Captain Catherine Wallis, Accredited Decision Maker, Air Force is the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Documents identified**

6. GPCAPT Wallis identified 368 documents as matching the description of your request. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents, which will be provided when the documents are released (refer to below for further information). When documents are released, you will note the decision maker has added an FOI item number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.


**Decision**

7. GPCAPT Wallis decided to release 368 documents in full.

**Material taken into account**

8. In making her decision, GPCAPT Wallis 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).

**Payment of Charges**

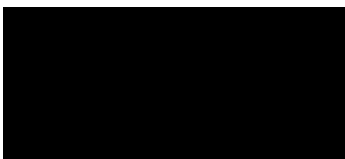
9. In order to finalise your request, you are required to pay the remaining  An invoice for the outstanding balance will be forwarded to you within the next 5 working days. Documents will be released to you once proof of payment is received by our office. You can forward a copy of the receipt to [FOI@defence.gov.au](mailto:FOI@defence.gov.au) or post to the address at the top of this letter.

**FOI Disclosure Log**

10. 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.

11. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact this office.

Yours sincerely



Dr Melanie Beacroft  
Case Manager  
Freedom of Information

15 June 2016