



Reference: R26419299

FOI 397/15/16 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:

"...documents from the three years prior to January 1, 2016, about expenditure in the following merchant categories on Defence credit cards (travel cards and/or purchasing cards):

- 1) Gambling transactions*
- 2) Dating and escort agencies."*

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 one document as matching the description of the request. The document contains information relevant to this request as extracted from the Defence Card Management System.

4. I have added an FOI reference number to the document.

Decision

5. I have decided to release this document in full.

Material taken into account

6. In making my decision, I 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; and
 - d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

Further Information

7. Merchant categories are industry standard codes applied by credit providers and forms part of the monthly data transfer provided to Defence.

8. In January 2016 Defence requested its corporate credit card providers to 'block' these merchant categories thus stopping the possibility of future expenditure being incurred against such merchants.

9. Of the \$1,160.43 expended over this period against these merchant categories \$199.45 has since been recovered. It is also understood that the remaining expenditure is being reviewed to determine whether it occurred because of 'scamming' or fraudulent activity.



K.W. Veitch
Accredited Decision Maker
CFO Group

29 June 2016