



**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 435/13/14



By email: 

Dear 

1. I refer to an email, dated 17 June 2014, which you sent to the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development (DIRD) seeking access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) . On 25 June 2014, the DIRD sought to formally transfer part that request to Defence as the subject matter of the documents sought is more closely connected with the functions of this agency.
2. On 26 June 2014, Defence accepted part transfer of your request, for access to:  
*“Any records from March 10 2014 onwards of Angus Houston’s travel aboard jets controlled by Royal Australian Air Force’s No. 34 Squadron.”*
3. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the decision relating to your request.

**FOI decision maker**

4. Group Captain CM Wallis, Director Coordination – Air Force was the accredited officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

**Document identified**

5. Group Captain Wallis identified one document matching the scope of your request, being a Special Purpose Aircraft (SPA) request form. 34 Squadron, who manage SPA advised that Mr Houston had only travelled on the aircraft on one occasion.

### **Material taken into account**

6. In making her decision Group Captain Wallis 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);
  - e. the Principles on open public sector information issued by the Information Commissioner.

### **Decision**

7. Following examination of the document, Group Captain Wallis decided to release the identified document intact, after removal of some material that did not specifically meet the terms of your request. The material was removed in accordance with section 22(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act.

8. Notwithstanding the above, some material that would also be considered to be irrelevant to the scope of this request has been retained to assist in your understanding of the document and provide context. A copy of the document in the form approved for release is at Enclosure 1.

### **Rights of review**

9. 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**

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.

### **Further information**

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

12. All departmental action on your request is now complete. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact this office.

Yours sincerely



Theresa Stinson  
Assistant Director – Media Case Management  
Freedom of Information

8 July 2014

#### Enclosures:

1. Document in the form for release
2. Fact Sheet: Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights