



FOI 470/17/18 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:

“A breakdown of all costs borne by the Department of Defence relating to the recent visit of i) Prince Charles and ii) Prince Edward to Australia to attend the Commonwealth Games and other engagements.

This should include any costs associated with their family and other travel companions, including the reported travel via RAAF VIP plane”

FOI decision maker

2. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

3. No document was identified as matching the scope of this request. Under section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department may produce a document containing the information in a discrete form if it does not unreasonably divert the resources of the agency. A document was produced by the Chief Finance Officer Group to assist the applicant to access information under section 3(2) of the FOI Act. The information extracted from the database relates to:

- a. Cash Expenditure on Operation ATLAS (Defence Support to the Commonwealth Games) - 2017-18 Periods 1-16

Decision

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

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); and
 - e. advice received from International Policy (IP) Division and the Chief Finance Officer Group (CFOG).

Clarification/Context Statement

6. The advice received from CFOG was that the specific elements requested regarding the costs associated with the visit of Prince Charles and Prince Edward are not separately identified in the financial systems. The same applies to a breakdown of any costs associated with their family and other travel companions, including the reported travel via the Royal

Australian Air Force (RAAF) Special Purpose Aircraft. It is therefore not a reasonable use of Commonwealth resources to produce this information in a form that is readily available.

7. The expenditure recorded in the financial system for operations, is the net additional cost of conducting that operation. Net additional costs are specific additional expenses required to undertake operations that are not provided for in baseline funding (e.g. excludes salaries and peacetime activities to raise, train and sustain the current force structure).

8. Additionally, the information provided is a preliminary result (as at 18 July 2018). The end of financial year result for Operation ATLAS may change up to the time the accounts are finalised.

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kim.ryan
Date: 2018.07.20
10:22:52 +10'00'

Kim Ryan
Accredited Decision Maker
Chief Finance Officer Group