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Subject: NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA HAS INFORMED DEFENCE THAT  
A DEFENCE FILE WITH DRAWINGS OF KESWICK BARRACKS HAS  
BEEN LOST IN A TAXI.

Comment:  
Action Area HDSO

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## **HOT ISSUE BRIEF**

**ISSUE: NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA HAS INFORMED DEFENCE THAT A DEFENCE FILE WITH DRAWINGS OF KESWICK BARRACKS HAS BEEN LOST IN A TAXI.**

**SENSITIVITY:** Potential the file may be made available to the media or have security implications.

### **KEY ISSUES:**

- National Archives of Australia (Archives) informed Defence today 24 May 2011 that on Monday 23 May 2011, six drawings of Keswick Barracks managed by Archives were left in a commercial taxi which was being used by Archives to transport the file between centres.
- National Archives have contacted the Taxi firm but the drawings have not been located.
- National Archives have advised that the file is "Keswick Barracks - schematic layout of buildings and secondary services 1951 – 1980).

- National Archives have reported the incident to the South Australian Police and the A/Director General OF Archives has directed an investigation be undertaken.
- The matter has been reported to the Defence Security Authority.

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**Date issued: 24 May 2011**

**BACKGROUND:**

National Archives of Australia (Archives) manages files for Commonwealth Agencies that are deemed suitable for storage with Archives.

It is unknown at this time why the drawings were being transported and who may have had access to the file and for what purposes.

Defence is seeking to confirm the content of the drawings which are understood to be historical schematics to determine what security risk is appropriate.

There is risk that the drawings may be provided to the media and cause embarrassment to Defence.

## **TALKING POINTS**

**Defence has been advised by National Archives of Australia that six drawings in the custody of National Archives in Adelaide were left in a taxi during transportation on Monday 23 May 2011 and the drawings have not been recovered.**

**The matter has been reported to the South Australian Police and National Archives have commenced an investigation into the matter.**

**Defence will also undertake its own review of the situation.**

**If asked: What is contained in the drawings, what are they of?**

**Response:**

- The drawings are of a historical nature of a Defence base and I do not propose to divulge any further information at this time other than Defence is undertaking a security assessment of the information and will implement appropriate steps informed by that assessment.**

**Is there a problem with security at the National Archives and how it manages Defence information?**

- Incidents such as these are rare however it does raise concerns at how these drawings and other information is transported and managed and National Archives are undertaking an investigation into the matter and Defence will also undertake its own review.

**Is there a risk that the information in the drawings could present a security risk or worse to Defence personnel at the base in question?**

- Any information relating to Defence sites and activities even of a historical nature and of a low risk is of concern and accordingly Defence is treating the matter seriously.

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