



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Mr Duncan Lewis AO, DSC, CSC
Secretary

SEC/OUT/2012/

Dr Ian Watt AO
Secretary
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
PO Box 6500
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear *Dr Watt, Ian,*

In direct response to the request from the Prime Minister that I consider accepting the post of Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, the European Union and NATO, I have accepted that offer. I understand the appointment has been approved by the Executive Council and is pending 'agreement' from the countries/institutions concerned.

On this basis and particularly at the request of the Prime Minister, I have agreed on balance to accept the appointment. I therefore tender my resignation from the appointment of Secretary of the Department of Defence with effect from midnight Wednesday 10 October 2012.

The decision has not, as you know, been an easy one as there is much work yet to be done in Defence. In balance, however I am enthusiastic about representing Australia as Ambassador in Brussels.

The appointment in Brussels I understand to be for a period of four years. I wish to thank you for your consideration throughout this period. I shall miss the collegial group of Secretaries with whom I have worked.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Lewis
17 September 2012