Dear [Redacted],

1. I refer to your email of 23 February 2012 in which you requested access, under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act), to:

   "On 6 Sep 10, the then CA told me (by email) that the policy on banning the wearing of berets (by everyone other than SOCOMD personnel) had been discussed widely at "my Chief of Army Advisory Committee" (CAAC). In a letter on 23 Aug 10, the CA stated that "it may prove necessary to withdraw [the SOCOMD] exemption as well". I wish to request a copy of the minutes of the CAAC meetings at which this matter was discussed and decisions made."

Background

2. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the decision relating to the documents that are the subject of your request.

FOI decision maker

3. Colonel Leigh Wilton, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army Headquarters, is the authorised decision maker, under the FOI Act, in relation to your request.

Documents identified

4. Colonel Wilton identified two documents as matching the description of your request. The documents were two sets of Minutes from the Chief of Army Advisory Committee (CAAC) which contained information relating to wearing berets. The documents are identified as follows:

   i. Chief of Army’s Senior Advisory Committee – Summary of Proceeding – 13 August 2010
   ii. Chief of Army’s Senior Advisory Committee – Summary of Proceeding – 11 June 2010
Decision

5. Colonel Wilton has decided to release the documents identified in response to your request, with matter not relevant to the scope of your request removed, under section 22(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act. A copy of the relevant section is available at Enclosure 1.

6. Colonel Wilton found that the documents contained material which related to other matters discussed at the CAAC meetings, matters which did not relate to the wearing of berets. Colonel Wilton considered that the other material would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the scope of the request.

Payment of Charges

7. In our letter dated 27 February 2012, the department estimated the cost associated with processing your request to be [redacted]. You agreed to pay charges for the administration of your request and paid the preliminary assessment deposit of [redacted] on 27 February 2012.

8. Upon completion of your request, the actual amount for processing was calculated to be [redacted]. Theresa Stinson, Assistant Director FOI, has decided to exercise her delegation, and waive the further costs associated with your FOI request.

Rights of review


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 two working days of receipt by the applicant. Defence will also publish this decision notice with privacy deletions.

Further advice

11. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact this office.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Elliott Bator
Case Manager
Freedom of Information
23 March 2012

Enclosures:
1. Relevant section of the FOI Act – Section 22.
2. Fact Sheet: Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights