



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Defence Reference: FOI 125/20/21

FOI 125/20/21 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:

“I wish to make the following application under FOI Act. Please limit search period to between July and September 2020.

- All briefings from the department or the Defence Minister's office dealing with the Australian Signals Directorate's decision to cancel a contract with the Australian National University to write its official history. For the purposes of satisfying the Act in relation to ASD being an exempt agency, please do not include any documents from the ASD.*
- All messages - including texts, whatsapp messages and emails - between the Defence Minister and Department of Defence Secretary regarding the ASD's decision to cancel a contract with the Australian National University to write its official history.*
- All messages - including texts, whatsapp messages and emails - between the Defence Minister and any employee of the Australian National University regarding the ASD's decision to cancel a contract with ANU to write its official history”*

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. I identified two documents as matching the description of the request.

Decision

4. I have decided to:

- a. release two documents in full;
- b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

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 Defence subject matters experts and third parties.

joanne.groves Digitally signed by joanne.groves Date: 2020.11.19 11:50:18 +11'00' 2

Mrs Joanne Groves
Accredited Decision Maker
Associate Secretary Group