

## Proposed MEDIA Response

Inquiry Number	CT-003672
Subject	Background on WeChat
Contact Name	Angus Grigg
Organisation	Australian Financial Review
Due to Defence Media	<p><b>27/02/2018</b></p> <p><i>Media queries need to be prioritised as urgent. Please contact Defence Media at least 24 hours prior to the deadline if it is not achievable.</i></p> <p><i>Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.</i></p>
Questions / Query	<p>Hi there - thanks for your help on this , it gives me a pretty clear idea where I can take the story.</p> <p>In addition I was hoping someone might be able to brief me on background around the decision not to allow Defence personnel to use WeChat and how that decision was arrived at.</p> <p>I plan to publish Wednesday morning so if possible a briefing this afternoon would be idea (I know this is short notice).</p> <p><b>Following conversation with Angus 27022018:</b></p> <p><b>Angus said he was happy not receive the full background if CIOG can answer the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has there been a conscious decision by Defence to disallow use of WeChat?</li> <li>• Have Defence Personnel requested use of WeChat?</li> </ul> <p>Is there policy or manuals that advise against the use of WeChat?</p>
Background / Summary	<p><b><i>Response provided to journalist 22 February 2018:</i></b> Defence does not provide or support the use of unauthorised software, including the WeChat social media application, on Defence mobile devices.</p> <p><b><i>Response provided to journalist 26 February 2018:</i></b> Defence allows the limited use of Facebook on Defence mobile devices for authorised users only.</p> <p>The WhatsApp application is currently undergoing a security</p>

	<p>assessment for potential use on Defence mobile devices.</p> <p>Nellie spoke to Angus 27 February and confirmed an extension with the journalist.</p> <p>Angus also said he was happy to not receive the full background if CIOG can confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has there been a conscious decision by Defence to disallow use of WeChat?</li> <li>• Have Defence Personnel requested use of WeChat?</li> <li>• Is there policy or manuals that advise against the use of WeChat?</li> </ul>
Proposed Response	<p>WeChat has not been authorised for use on Defence mobile phones.</p> <p>Defence personnel have requested to use WeChat, however the application is undergoing security reviews which will determine whether or not the application is deemed secure and fit for purpose for use on Defence mobile phones.</p> <p>Defence has published policy and guidance on reasonable use of approved applications and internet access from Defence mobile phones.</p>

**Clearances**

**Clearance officers please ensure both date and time are detailed.**

Drafted	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Response Drafted by:	<i>Lindsay Morgan</i>	<i>Assistant Secretary ICT Security</i>	<i>27/02/18 1800</i>

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Group/Service 1 Star or above	<i>Lindsay Morgan</i>	<i>Assistant Secretary ICT Security</i>	<i>27/02/18 1800</i>
	<i>Ali Reis</i>	<i>OCDF</i>	<i>28022018</i>
	<i>Sophia Blix</i>	<i>OSEC</i>	<i>28022018</i>
Strategic Communications Adviser	<i>Adam Zorzi</i>	<i>Communications Officer</i>	<i>28/02/18 0840</i>

Minister	Name	Appointment	Date and Time
Ministerial Consultation:  (To be completed by Defence Media)			

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**From:** Morgan, Lindsay MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 March 2018 11:08 AM  
**To:** McCarty-Harper, Coll MRS  
**Cc:** CIOG CTOD ICTSB ICT Security Governance  
**Subject:** Media Enquiry Response - WeChat [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Col,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I can confirm that WeChat is not in use and has not yet (to our knowledge) been requested for use anywhere in Defence. We cannot verify outside of Defence who or what agencies may be using it, as advised, we have been advised anecdotally that some other agencies may be using it.

[REDACTED]

- Has there been a conscious decision by Defence to disallow use of WeChat? **Yes, WeChat is not authorised for use on Defence Mobile Phones.**
- Have Defence Personnel requested use of WeChat? **No, at this time, Defence personnel have not requested to use WeChat. If there was a request, the application would be subject to security assessments to determine whether it would be secure and fit for purpose for use on Defence Mobile Phones.**
- Is there policy or manuals that advise against the use of WeChat? **Yes, Defence has published policy and guidance on reasonable use of approved applications and internet access from Defence Mobile Phones.**

Lindsay Morgan – MACS Snr CP  
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