



FOI 253/19/20 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by _____ under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

“In 2018, according to released documents, the WhatsApp application was undergoing a security assessment for potential use on Defence mobile devices. I would like to request all documents that concern the results of that assessment and any subsequent assessment.

In addition, I would like to receive documents that contain any advice issued to Defence personnel regarding the use of the WhatsApp application from January 1 2019 to date.”

...excluding personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeys numbers and mobile telephone numbers, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request. In addition, excluding duplicates and drafts of documents, and documents sent to and from me.

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 four documents as matching the description of the request.
4. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in a schedule of documents.
5. I have added an FOI reference number and Item/Serial number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.

Decision

6. I have decided to:
 - a. release two documents in full; and
 - b. partially release two documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

7. 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);
 - e. advice received from relevant Defence Groups and Services; and

- f. advice from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Reasons for decision

8. Documents matching the scope were reviewed and released either in full or noting the exclusion of personal details.

Further Information

9. Some of the documents matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker, as the documents are approved for public release the marker has been struck through.

Clarification/Context Statement

10. Item 2.2 from the schedule of documents is an example of the template response provided in response to requests for *advice issued to Defence personnel regarding the use of the WhatsApp application from January 1 2019 to date.*

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Date: 2019.12.23 11:02:53 +11'00'

Mrs Joanne Groves
Accredited Decision Maker
Associate Secretary Group