

s22



**From:** s47E(c)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 December 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** s47E(c)  
**Subject:** FW: 211214 - 10:25 - Email s47E(c) - MC21-004708 : Helen Haines MP to Minister Dutton  
PDMS Notification - Record Assigned - noreply@pws.gov.au [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning s47E(c)

Can you please review the attached draft letter in the context of the original letter to MINDEF posing three Qs. If I could please have something last thing today and I'll clear this evening.

MLO instruction is: *UAP/UFO ministerial correspondence with standardised wording incorporated for review and clearance for progression to 2\*star. Grateful if I could please have this returned by NLT 1200hrs Wednesday 15 Dec 2021 to facilitate clearance.*

Regards,

s47E(c)

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**From:** [noreply@pws.gov.au](mailto:noreply@pws.gov.au) <[noreply@pws.gov.au](mailto:noreply@pws.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 14 December 2021 10:26 AM

**To:** s47E(c)

**Subject:** 211214 - 10:25 - Email - s47E(c) MC21-004708 : Helen Haines MP to Minister Dutton PDMS Notification - Record Assigned - [noreply@pws.gov.au](mailto:noreply@pws.gov.au)

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**PDR Record Assigned - [MC21-004708](#)**

from s47E(c)  
to s47E(c)

**Status:**

**Draft**

**Subject:** Helen Haines MP to Minister Dutton

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Instruction:</b> | Good morning s47E(c)<br>UAP/UFO ministerial correspondence with standardised wording incorporated for review and clearance for progression to 2*star. Grateful if I could please have this returned by NLT 1200hrs Wednesday 15 Dec 2021 to facilitate clearance.<br>s47E(c) - FYSA<br>Thank you.<br>s47E(c) RAAF MLO. |
|---------------------|--|

**Milestones:**  
Due for **Clearance:** 17/12/2021 5:00 PM  
Due to **Parliamentary:** 20/12/2021 12:00 PM  
Due to **Minister's Office:** 20/12/2021 5:00 PM

For help with PDMS, please refer to the [PDMS Quick Reference Guides on the Intranet](#) or for technical issues and assistance please contact the PDMS Helpdesk on 02 6265 9192 or at [PDMSTraining.andSupport@defence.gov.au](mailto:PDMSTraining.andSupport@defence.gov.au)

Thank You

**PDMS Notification Service**

*Please do not reply to this message.*

**CC Recipients:**

s47E(c)

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| RAAF SENATE ESTIMATES TOPIC TRACKER   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|---|------------------------|-------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-------|
|   |                        | Title | Project Number   | PDMS Details               |                                |            | Stakeholders  |                     |                              |                                    |            | Clearance                 |              |             |            | Notes |
|   |                        |       |  | Current PDR<br>(CAF Brief) | Current PDR<br>(SEC/CDF Brief) | Current QB | Staff Officer | Desk Officer (2022) | Contact Officer (RAAF)<br>1* | Contact Officer (CASG/Other)<br>1* | HASD/RASDD | Cleared RAAF<br>Line Area | Cleared CASG | Cleared DFG | Cleared 2* |       |
| s22   | AIRCRAFT               |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL    |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | SPACE                  |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   | 19                     | SPCDR | Unidentified Flying Object/Unidentified Flying Phenomena "NEW" |                            | SB21-001257                    |            |               | s47E(c)             | s47E(c)                      | s47E(c)                            |            |                           | 17-Jan-22    | Nil         |            |       |
| s22   | AIR DEFENCE            |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | AIR COMBAT and WEAPONS |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | WORKFORCE              |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | EVENTS                 |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| OTHER - Topical Briefs will be included at discretion in discussion with RAAF MLO |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| 27  |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| 28  |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| 30  |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| 31  |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
| s22   | FOR CONSULT            |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |
|   |                        |       |  |                            |                                |            |               |                     |                              |                                    |            |                           |              |             |            |       |

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SQ22-000026

Defence Portfolio

## SENATE ESTIMATES QUESTION

cleared  
s22  
4/3

(Question No. 20)

Senator Peter Whish-Wilson asked the Department of Defence the following question, upon notice, on 25 February 2022:

During the last Supplementary Budget Estimates (in response to a question on notice), the Department of Defence advised that there is no protocol for reporting or recording Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or Unidentified Flying Objects.

1. In a scenario that an airforce pilot, or airforce personnel on the ground (such as monitoring radar), detects or sights an aircraft over Australian airspace, or in their sphere of operation, but is unable to identify the nature of the craft, what is the process/protocol for pilot and/or personnel to report their observation?
2. If there is an existing protocol – how many such observations or sightings have been made in the past 10 years? If there is no protocol – by what means does the air force maintain the security of Australian Airspace in dealing with unidentified craft?
3. What encouragement is given to pilots to make reports of aircraft they cannot identify?

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Senator Peter Whish-Wilson – The Department of Defence provides the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. Unidentified aircraft which enter military controlled airspace or pose a safety risk to military aircraft are subject to RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting
2. There are no records of observations or sightings that have been reported in the past ten years upon review of RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting databases.
3. There is no specific encouragement given to pilots to report aircraft they cannot identify, but rather to report unusual or unexpected events through RAAF Aviation Safety Reporting procedures.

**Authorising Officer**

Cleared by:

AIRMSHL Mel Hupfeld, AO, DSC  
Chief of Air Force  
Air Force

Date: March 2022

Ph: s22

**Contact Officer:** s47E(c), Air Commander Australia, Air Force, Ph: s22

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**From:** s47E(c)  
**To:** s47E(c)  
**Cc:** s47E(c)  
**Subject:** 220429 - 16:07 - Email - s47E(c) - FOI 408/21/22 - TP's for CDSPC clearance by COB Fri 29 April s47E(c)  
**Date:** Friday, 29 April 2022 4:07:21 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[BP24528115.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon s47E(c)

Please see attached CDSPC cleared response to FOI 408/21/22.

In future any UFO/UAP enquiry should be directed to OHAC.

Many Tx,



s47E(c)

Chief of Staff, Defence Space Command

s47E(c) | s22 | s47E(c) | Fairbairn ACT 2610

Email: s47E(c)

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**From:** s47E(c)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 April 2022 12:10 PM  
**To:** s47E(c)  
**Cc:** RAAF FOI <[raaffoi@dpe.protected.mil.au](mailto:raaffoi@dpe.protected.mil.au)>  
**Subject:** FOI 408/21/22 - Request for TP's [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s47E(c)

Thanks for your time on the phone this morning.

As discussed, would you please draft TP's to go with the attached Draft Statement of Reasons and prepared documents for release (binder 1).

We would be grateful to receive TP's by **COB Friday 28 April 2022**. Attached are the media sensitive TP template along with the MIN Alert process.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Cheers

s47E(c)

s47E(c)

FOI Manager – Directorate Strategic Issues Management - Air Force Headquarters

 s47E(c) Russell Offices, RUSSELL ACT 2610

 [Chief of Staff AFHQ - Freedom of Information](#)

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SUBJECT (FOI 408/21/22)

## **DEPARTMENTAL TALKING POINTS**

### **Talking points**

- The Department of Defence (Defence) does not have a policy governing the reporting or recording of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP).
- Historically, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) handled reports of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. However, in 1996 this process ceased after determining there was no scientific or other compelling reason to continue to devote resources. Defence has no intent to re-establish a reporting mechanism for UAP.

### ***If asked:***

#### **How are UAP reported to Defence?**

- Defence does not have a policy for reporting or recording UAP.
- Historically, the RAAF was responsible for handling UAP reports on behalf of Defence, however that ceased in 1996 after determining there was no scientific or other compelling reason to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAP.
- The safety of Defence flight incidents, including those potentially posed by UAP are handled by the Defence Aviation Safety Authority (DASA), separate to the civilian safety of flight incidents which is the purview of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

#### **As an ally, have the United States offered to or asked to collaborate on UAP investigations?**

- No. To date, the United States nor any other nation or ally requested or offered to collaborate on UAP reporting or investigation.
- Defence will not pursue international collaboration on the subject of UAP.

### **With the US calling UAP a potential threat to national security, should Australia be concerned too?**

- UAP are likely to be one of three things, natural or other benign phenomena, anomalies with sensors or (human-made) technologies. Information on the human-made technologies is classified and the remit of the Intelligence Community.
- Countering capabilities spanning the maritime, land, air, cyber and space domains that could threaten our national security is a core business of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), any threat to National security is a concern but also a priority for Defence.

### **Are UAP a risk to flight safety?**

- Flight safety is a high priority for ADF aviation. Any risks to flight safety are considered serious, but Defence is not aware of UAP being the cause of an aviation safety incident or featured prominently in a safety investigation.

### **Are these likely to be extra-terrestrial in origin?**

- There is no evidence to suggest that UAP would be extra-terrestrial in origin.

### **Background**

- On 25 June 2021, the United States Office of the Director of National Intelligence released a Preliminary Assessment: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (the Report) to provide an intelligence assessment of the threat posed by UAP and the progress the US Department of Defense Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force has made in understanding this threat.
- The Report does not draw conclusions on what UAP are and most remain unexplained, mainly due to lack of data.
- The Report finds no evidence that UAP are extra-terrestrial in origin.
- The Report did reach the following conclusions:
  - In a limited number of incidents, UAP reportedly appeared to exhibit unusual flight characteristics. These observations could be the result of sensor errors, spoofing, or observer misperception and require additional rigorous analysis.
  - There are probably multiple types of UAP requiring different explanations based on the range of appearances and behaviours described in the available reporting.

- UAP clearly pose a safety of flight issue and may pose a challenge to U.S. national security. UAP would also represent a national security challenge if they are foreign adversary collection platforms or provide evidence a potential adversary has developed either a breakthrough or disruptive technology.
- On 23 November 2021, the US Director of National Intelligence directed the establishment of the Airborne Object Identification and Management Synchronisation Group to coordinate reporting across US Department of Defense and other US agencies, with the goal to minimise flight safety and national security concerns.
- Defence has no plans to replicate a similar mechanism. DASA and CASA already serve this function across flight safety issues and apparatus exist for concerns regarding National security.
- Historically the RAAF was responsible for handling UAP reports, however that ceased in 1996. If civilians wish to report UAP they should contact their local police authorities, or get in contact with a civil UFO research organisation.
- The Defence Instruction was cancelled in November 2000 and not replaced.
- UAP may also be referred to as Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) or Unusual Aerial Sightings (UAS). UAP is the contemporary term for such phenomena.

Contact officer: s47E(c) Assistant Secretary Space Strategic Plans  
Contact officer phone: s44

| Cleared by:                           | Name    | Appointment                     | Date      |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| MECC Embedded Communications Director | s47E(c) | DCOMM – Air Force               | 5 May 22  |
| Air Vice-Marshal                      | s47E(c) | Commander Defence Space Command | 29 Apr 22 |