



DEFENCE FOI 064/22/23 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:

“Policy or operating procedure containing guidance/direction on the discharge (or delayed discharge) of ADF members during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. In particular that addresses discharge of ADF members whose return home may be affected by state border closures.”

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 five 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/document number to each of the documents, which corresponds with the schedule.

Decision

6. I have decided to:
 - a. release five documents in full.

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); and



CMDR Cathy Rice
Accredited Decision Maker
Navy Group

31 August 2022