

I refer to the request by

DEFENCE FOI 510/22/23

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) (FOI Act):

Following Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman's testimony at the

Following Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Robert Chipman's testimony at the Senates estimates hearing on Wednesday 15 February 2023, confirming that he has asked the Air Commander what capabilities RAAF has to detect objects in Australian airspace, please be advised that I wish to submit the following FOI request:

(the applicant), dated and received on 20 February

I kindly request a copy of briefing documents and email communications (including supporting file attachments) addressed to, sent to/from/cc'd Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Darren Goldie, AM, CSC for the period 28 January 2023 to 20 February 2023 (inclusive), that contain any of the following keywords: Chinese Spy Balloon; Chinese Balloon; Unidentified Objects; Unidentified Aerial Objects; Unidentified Aerial Phenomena; Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon; Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena; Unexplained Aerial Phenomena; Unidentified Flying Phenomena; Unidentified Flying Object; UAP; UFO, Range Fouler

I also kindly request that personal details be limited to the full names of individuals involved in any applicable FOI response.

Background	

FOI decision maker

6. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

7. I have identified one (1) document as falling within the scope of the request.

Decision

8. I have decided to release this document in full.

Material taken into account

- 9. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
 - a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the content of the identified document in issue; and
 - c. relevant provisions of the FOI Act.

Further information

10. Defence does not have a protocol for reporting or recording Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) or Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO). The Royal Australia Air Force (RAAF) ceased handling reports of UAP or UFO in 1996 after determining that there was no scientific or other compelling reason for RAAF to continue to devote resources to the recording and investigation of UAP or UFO.

andrew.

Digitally signed by andrew.

Date: 2023.03.24 16:05:49

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A Group Captain
Accredited Decision Maker
Royal Australian Air Force