



## DEFENCE FOI 662/22/23

### STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 15 April 2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

*IT statistics showing the number, time and exact URL of every connection to the tiktok.com domain from 1 June 2022 from Defence devices or networks.*

#### Background

- 2.
- 3.
- 4.



#### FOI decision maker

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

#### Documents identified

6. A document was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the description of the request:
  - a document was produced containing the information by using ‘a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information’ s17(1)(c)(i); and
  - producing the document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations s17(2).

#### Decision

7. I have decided to release the document created under section 17 of the FOI Act in full.

#### Material taken into account

8. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
  - a. the terms of the request;

- b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
- c. relevant provisions of the FOI Act; and
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

**Further information**

- 9. Defence has not approved the TikTok application for use on its networks or devices and is compliant with Australian Government directive [Direction 001-2023 on the TikTok application](#) which was issued on 4 April 2023.
- 10. Defence uses security controls to restrict access to social media sites, including the tiktok.com domain, unless a legitimate business or operational requirement exists.
- 11. The data collected by Defence outlines connections to TikTok content through a web interface, not the use of the TikTok application by Defence employees. The data includes instances where TikTok content may have been embedded in other websites, such as news sites.
- 12. Defence monitors user access to social media sites from the Defence network. Defence employees must comply with all security requirements, including completion of mandatory security training which outline personal responsibility to using social media sites on Defence devices.

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Digitally signed by andrew  
Date: 2023.06.08 10:08:26 +10'00'

**Andrew**

Accredited Decision Maker

Chief Information Officer Group

Department of Defence