



## DEFENCE FOI 048/23/24

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

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 17 July 2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

*... the number of connections by Defence devices to the [openai.com](https://openai.com) domain from 1 December 2022 to 30 June 2023. Please exclude specific URLs as requested by 662/22/23 -- all I seek is the number of connections during this period*

#### 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. One document has been generated in accordance with section 17 [Requests involving use of computers etc.] 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

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

#### Material taken into account

5. In making my decision, I have had regard to:

- a. the terms of the request;
- b. the content of the generated document 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

6. Defence has not approved access to the OpenAI.com domain and associated web services for use on its networks or devices, for the conduct of Defence business.

7. Defence blocks access to online AI services, such as Chat GPT, from the Defence network. This is to prevent a loss of control of classified or privacy information.

8. Defence uses security controls to restrict access to various internet sites, unless a legitimate business or operational requirement exists.

9. The data collected by Defence is the total number of connections to OpenAI.com, representing Defence users accessing the domain through the online web interface. The data includes instances of connections to OpenAI.com prior to Defence implementing refined security controls.

10. Defence monitors user internet access from the Defence network. Defence employees must comply with all security requirements, including the completion of mandatory security training. This training outlines personal responsibility when using approved access to restricted sites on Defence devices, as well as personal responsibility for safe-guarding Defence information on Defence and non-Defence networks.

david [REDACTED]

Digitally signed by

david [REDACTED]

Date: 2023.08.10 11:31:36  
+10'00'

**David** [REDACTED]

Accredited Decision Maker

Joint Capability Group

Department of Defence