



DEFENCE FOI 255/23/24

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 14 September 2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

"1. A list of all Ministerial briefs and the date provided to Defence Portfolio Ministers.

2. A list of all Ministerial submissions and the date provided to Defence Portfolio Ministers.

3. A list of all Senate Estimates questions on notice received and date provided to Defence Portfolio Ministers.

4. A list of parliamentary questions on notice received and date provided to all Defence Portfolio Ministers.

5. A list of all media enquires received by Defence.

I request this information broken down by category and calendar year since 2019 to 2023 year to date.

Background

I seek only the number in each category by year and date provided to a Defence Portfolio Minister, not the subject, content or the documents."

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. A document was created under section 17 of the FOI Act in line with the information requested:
 - 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)(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 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 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).

REASONS FOR DECISION

6. Given the nature of the request, the document being released compiles the number of documents provided, per category. Ministerial briefs, submissions and parliamentary questions on notice are displayed according to date provided to the relevant portfolio minister's office. Questions and media enquiries asked of the Department are listed as the total number received per year.



Naomi 

Accredited Decision Maker

Department of Defence

13 October 2023