



BP41628013

DEFENCE FOI 824/23/24

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 April 2024 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

“I request copies of the Chief of Air Force (CAF) guidance to annual Air Force Promotion Boards, 2017-2023 (inclusive) under the FOI Act.

Details: Each year the CAF provides written guidance to Air Force Promotion Boards (this guidance is made available to all Air Force personnel) which details CAF expectations and guidance for members of Air Force promotion boards. This guidance is normally a couple of pages in length. I am seeking copies of the CAF promotion board guidance issued from 2017-2023 inclusive.

Timeframe: from 01/06/2017 to 01/06/2023”.

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 have identified 18 documents as falling within the scope of the request.
4. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in the schedule of documents.

Exclusions

5. Signatures, contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request, duplicates of documents, and documents sent to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

Decision

6. I have decided to:
 - a. release in full one document; and
 - b. partially release 17 documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

7. 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

Section 22 – Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

8. Section 22 of the FOI Act permits an agency to prepare and provide an edited copy of a document where the agency has decided to refuse access to an exempt document or that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access.
9. The documents contain irrelevant information such as hand written signatures that does not relate to the request.
10. I am satisfied that it is reasonably practicable to remove the exempt and irrelevant material and release the documents to you in an edited form.

anthony [redacted] Digitally signed by
anthony [redacted]
Date: 2024.06.13 09:03:03
+10'00'

A. [redacted]
GPCAPT
Accredited Decision maker
Air Force