



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Objective Reference: AHQ/OUT/2021/BQ29306863

DEFENCE FOI 131/21/22 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) for access to:

"I'm seeking access under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 to the following documents held by the Department of Defence:

All briefings or submissions provided to the Minister for Defence in relation to the proposed joint selection courses for SASR and the 2nd Commando Regiment (including whether to proceed with this proposal or to delay or amend the proposal).

Please limit search to the period 30 March 2021 to 13 September 2021."

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 identified one document, totalling four pages, as matching the scope of this request.

Exclusions

4. Personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeyS numbers and mobile telephone numbers contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request, duplicates of documents and documents to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

Decision

5. I have decided to:

- a. release the document in full
- b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

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

- b. the content of the identified document in issue
- c. relevant provisions in the FOI Act
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines)
- e. advice provided by Officers within Army.

Reasons for decision

Section 22 – Edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

7. Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if an agency or Minister decides:

(i) to refuse access to an exempt document; or

(ii) that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access

and it is reasonably practicable to prepare a copy of the document modified by deletions, the agency or Minister must give the applicant access to the edited copy.

8. The document provided contains information that is not relevant to the applicant's request. As such I consider this information to be outside the scope of this request.

9. Considering all of the above, I decided that it was reasonably practicable to remove the material that did not fall within scope of this request and release the document in that form.

Further Information

10. The document identified as matching the scope of this request was classified. A declassified version of the document has been approved for release.



M. Cochbain
COL
Accredited Decision Maker
Army