

**Dick, Gary MR 1**

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**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** DSVS-FAS Office  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** FOR DSVS ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good afternoon DSVS,

Please see the enquiry below from Danny Tran at ABC Investigations regarding Security Contact Reports.

**Priority 2****Responsible Group/Service:** DSVS**Deadline (to Defence Media):** Tomorrow 18 September, 15:00**Final Clearance:** OMINDEF

//

I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

//

Happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
P: +61 2 547E(d)  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 12:48 PM  
**To:** 'Danny Tran'  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Danny,

Thanks for sending this through – we'll get you a response as soon as we can.

Cheers,

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

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---

**From:** Danny Tran  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

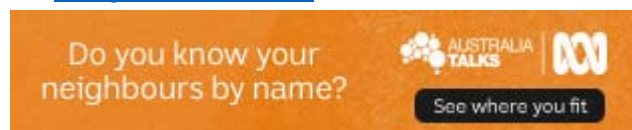
Danny



Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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The information contained in this email and any attachment is confidential and may contain legally privileged or copyright material. It is intended only for the use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you are not permitted to disseminate, distribute or copy this email or any attachments. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete this email from your system. The ABC does not represent or warrant that this transmission is secure or virus free. Before opening any attachment you should check for viruses. The ABC's liability is limited to resupplying any email and attachments.

**Dick, Gary MR 1**  
s7(2C)(b)

---

**From:** Olsen, Hayleigh MISS <[hayleigh.olsen@defence.gov.au](mailto:hayleigh.olsen@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2019 9:27 AM  
**To:** Bulkeley, Jeremy MR <s47E(d)>; Murray, Faye MS <s47E(d)>  
**Subject:** FW: Media Request - due 1500 - FW: FOR DSVS ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Jeremy and Faye

A media request came in last night regarding contact reporting.

Please see below.

This is due back to Defence media by 1500, so can Paul please have it back by around 1300 to clear?

Please come and see Paul if you have any questions

Hayleigh

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 12:38 PM  
**To:** DSVS-FAS Office <[dsvs.fasoffice@defence.gov.au](mailto:dsvs.fasoffice@defence.gov.au)>  
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## UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon DSVS,

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### Priority 2

**Responsible Group/Service:** DSVS

**Deadline (to Defence Media):** Tomorrow 18 September, 15:00

**Final Clearance:** OMINDEF

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Happy to discuss.

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

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**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2019 11:31 AM  
**To:** Bulkeley, Jeremy MR; Grande, Carlos MR  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** FW: FOR DSVS ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** CM19-001544.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Jeremy and Carlos,

Apologies, looks like I didn't attach the template – please see attached.

Given this one has taken a while to get to the right area, I'll extend the deadline to COB – let me know if you need more time, noting Band 1 clearance is required.

Happy to chat.

Cheers,

Tom

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

## **MEDIA ENQUIRY – CM19-001544**

<b>Title:</b> Security Contact Reports	
<b>Journalist:</b> Danny Tran	<b>Publication:</b> ABC Investigations
<b>Enquiry Received:</b> 17 Sep, 11:30	<b>Due to MECC:</b> 18 Sep, 15:00
<b>Responsible Minister:</b> MINDEF	

### **Question:**

I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

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### **Response:**

- Please prepare a statement, not question/answer format unless agreed prior with Defence Media.
- Please ensure information provided is unclassified and for public release.
- Please use Arial font, size 11.

### **Background ~~(not for public release)~~:**

#### **Media Team:**

Nil

**Groups/Services:** It is the responsibility of the business area to provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the questions as a guide.

- Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
- Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?
- Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently?
- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?
- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?
- Have any of the groups or services seen this request? If so, what was their instruction?

### **Clearances:**

**Unclassified**

**Australian Government****Department of Defence**

<b>Group/Service</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointment/ Role</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<b>Drafted by: Contact Officer</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>Group/Service 1 Star or above</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>Strategic Comms Advisor</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>MECC</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>OSEC/OCDF</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18

**Unclassified**

**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Ochocki, Mel MS  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 5:56 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** Cooper, Paul MR 8; Olsen, Hayleigh MISS  
**Subject:** FW: FOR DSVS ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** CM19-001544.docx

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Tom

Apologies for the delay. Please find cleared media points attached.

Kind Regards

**Mel Ochocki**  
Executive Assistant to Ms Kylie Scholten  
First Assistant Secretary  
Defence Security and Vetting Service  
Department of Defence  
CP3-04-136 | Campbell Park Offices  
P: s47E(d)  
E: s47E(d)

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---

**From:** Cooper, Paul MR s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 September 2019 5:14 PM  
**To:** DSVS-FAS Office <dsvs.fasoffice@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR DSVS ACTION - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Happy to chat.

Cheers,

Tom

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**Deadline (to Defence Media):** Tomorrow 18 September, 15:00

**Final Clearance:** OMINDEF

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Lewis, Tom MR 1  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 6:13 PM  
**To:** Galliford, Claire MS  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** FOR CG CLEARANCE - Priority 2 media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security contact reports - Deadline 18 September, 15:00 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Attachments:** CM19-001544.docx

**UNCLASSIFIED**

As discussed, one for your clearance – ideally it would be good to get this up tonight if possible, as he is after something by 10am tomorrow.

Cheers,

-Tom

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**Cc:** Cooper, Paul MR 8 <paul.cooper8@defence.gov.au>; Olsen, Hayleigh MISS <hayleigh.olsen@defence.gov.au>  
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**From:** Gard, Amelia MS  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 7:31 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** Re: Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

This is a random one and I also don't know what the connection is. Let's share tomorrow once cleared and we know where that advice came from.

Amelia Gard | Director  
 Defence Media | Department of Defence

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Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
 P: 02 s47E(d) M s22  
 E: s47E(d)

On 19 Sep 2019, at 6:57 pm, Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)> wrote:

UNCLASSIFIED

Should I share this with BRIG Holmes and co? Or wait until we have a final response?

I don't know where the advice has come from re IGADF inquiry.

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**To:** Gianoli, Lauren MISS s47E(d) ; Hamer, Nicky MS  
 s47E(d) Olbrei, Alex MR s47E(d)  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; Gard, Amelia MS s47E(d) ; Heath,  
 Cameron MR <[cameron.heath@defence.gov.au](mailto:cameron.heath@defence.gov.au)>; Liebowitz, Yaeli MS  
 s47E(d) ; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL s47E(d)  
 Woods, Dianna MRS 1 s47E(d)  
**Subject:** Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi team

Please see below for your clearance a media enquiry from the ABC Investigations team, regarding security contact reports under the PSPF.

s47C

**Journalist:** Danny Tran, ABC Investigations - It is believed that Mr Tran is working on story related to the IGADF Afghanistan inquiry.

**Deadline:** 10:00am Friday 20 September 2019

**Clearance:** Kylie Scholten, FAS Defence Security & Vetting Service (ph <sup>s22</sup>)

**Consultation:** DFAT has been consulted on the response and have been asked the same questions. I have asked DFAT to share their response with us.

### Question:

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### Response:

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.

All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

### Background (~~not for public release~~):

The Protective Security Policy Framework requires all Australian Government personnel, including Defence APS, ADF, contractors, consultants, and outsourced service providers, engaged by Defence or working on Defence activities, to report contacts of concern both domestically and offshore.

**It would not be appropriate for Defence to comment on specific statistics, given the Reporting Scheme is not owned by Defence, and also due to the specific nature of the reports.** <sup>s47C</sup>

<sup>s47C</sup>

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,  
Claire

**Claire Galliford**  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

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- ? How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- ? How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- ? How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- ? How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- ? Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- ? What does the Department attribute this to?
- ? What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

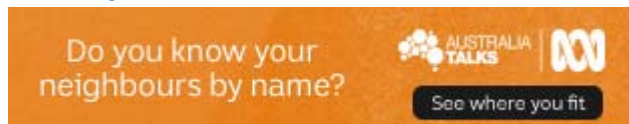
Kind regards,

Danny



Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751  
E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Media AGD <media@ag.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** Media; Media AGD  
**Subject:** RE: Defence Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Tom and team

AGD has no concerns or comments on your proposed response

Thank you for the email

s47E(d)

AGD Media team  
Attorney-General's Department  
Media line – 02 6141 2500  
[media@ag.gov.au](mailto:media@ag.gov.au)

---

**From:** Media [mailto:media@defence.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 11:09 AM  
**To:** Media AGD <media@ag.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Defence Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good morning,

Defence received the media enquiry from Danny Tran earlier in the week regarding Security Contact Reports. We understand you received the same enquiry.

We are planning on going back to Mr Tran with the response below – DFAT were consulted on this response, s47C  
s47C

Our Minister's office has asked us to run this past you – please let us know if you have any comments or concerns with the response.

//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy. All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 547E(d)

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

---

**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

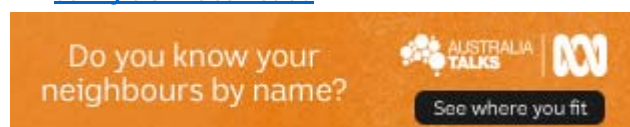
Danny



Danny Tran  
 Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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---

**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 11:58 AM  
**To:** Lewis, Tom MR 1  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS; Media; Media  
**Subject:** RE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks Tom.

s47E(d) Director, Media &amp; Parliamentary Section

Phone s47E(d) | Mobile s22

---

**From:** Lewis, Tom MR 1 s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 11:34 AM  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS s47E(d) Media <media@dfat.gov.au>; Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi s47E(d)

Sorry for the delay in getting back to you.

This is our proposed response:

//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy. All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

I understand the DSVS team made contact with DFAT when they were developing this response.

s47C

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

---

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
P: +61 s47E(d)  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 10:17 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>; Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS s47E(d)  
**Subject:** RE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Defence,

Are you also able to share your draft response on this query when ready?

regards

s47E(d)  
s47E(d) Director, Media & Parliamentary

---

---

**From:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 7:28 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Claire

Yes, we have received the same inquiry. Our response has not been through final clearance yet – the current draft is as follows:

//

**The following statement is attributable to a DFAT spokesperson:**

As part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's contact reporting policy, all staff are required to report any contact that seems suspicious, unusual or persistent/ongoing.

**On Background (for use in reporting, not for attribution)**

Contact reporting is one of the means the Australian Government uses to address the enduring threat posed by espionage. Statistics on security contact reports are sensitive and not for public release.

//

Kind regards,  
s47E(d)

---

Media and Parliamentary Section  
Communications and Parliamentary Branch  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
All media enquiries: [media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)

---

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 6:48 PM  
**To:** Media <[media@dfat.gov.au](mailto:media@dfat.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi team

I understand you are working on a similar enquiry from the ABC Investigations team.

Are you able to share your proposed/draft response with us? I understand our Vetting and Security team have already been in touch.

Thanks,  
Claire

**Defence Media**  
s22

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---

**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

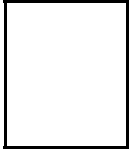
Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Danny



Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Media <Media@asio.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 2:38 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: Defence Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Tom

Thanks for the discussion regarding the query below. ASIO has no concerns with Defence response.

Regards

s7

Media | Australian Security Intelligence Organisation  
 (02) 6249 8381



**Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

---

**From:** Media [mailto:media@defence.gov.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 11:13 AM  
**To:** Media <Media@asio.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Media <media@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Defence Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good morning,

Defence received the media enquiry below from Danny Tran earlier in the week regarding Security Contact Reports.

We are planning on going back to Mr Tran with the response below – DFAT were consulted on this response, s47C  
 s47C

Our Minister's office has asked us to run this past you – please let us know if you have any comments or concerns with the response. We'd also appreciate if you can confirm if ASIO received the enquiry as well – we know that DFAT and AG's both got it.

//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.

All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 s47E(d)

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

---

**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
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My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

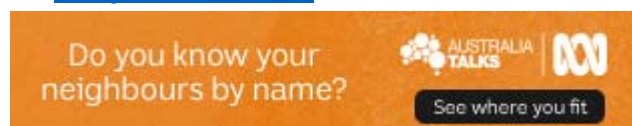
Danny



Danny Tran  
 Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Olbrei, Alex MR  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 3:45 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS; Heath, Cameron MR; Liebowitz, Yaeli MS; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL; Woods, Dianna MRS 1; Gianoli, Lauren MISS; Hamer, Nicky MS  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Tom,

Thanks, the below is cleared to go back to Danny Tran:

//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.

All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

Thanks,  
Alex

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---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 2:43 PM  
**To:** Olbrei, Alex MR ; Media  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS ; Heath, Cameron MR ; Liebowitz, Yaeli MS ; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL ; Woods, Dianna MRS 1 ; Gianoli, Lauren MISS ; Hamer, Nicky MS  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Alex,

We have discussed with Attorney-General's and ASIO – both organisations are happy with our response.

AG's did receive the same enquiry, but ASIO did not.

FYSA, <sup>s47C</sup>

Happy to discuss.

Cheers,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 s47E(d)

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Olbrei, Alex MR s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 10:41 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Gard, Amelia MS s47E(d) ; Heath, Cameron MR s47E(d) ;  
 Liebowitz, Yaeli MS s47E(d) ; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL  
 s47E(d) ; Woods, Dianna MRS 1 s47E(d) ; Gianoli, Lauren  
 MISS s47E(d) ; Hamer, Nicky MS s47E(d)  
**Subject:** RE: Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good morning team,

s47C

Following their responses, we'll finalise OMINDEF clearances.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Cheers,  
 Alex

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 September 2019 6:56 PM  
**To:** Gianoli, Lauren MISS s47E(d) ; Hamer, Nicky MS s47E(d)  
 Olbrei, Alex MR s47E(d)  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>; Gard, Amelia MS s47E(d) ; Heath, Cameron MR  
 s47E(d) ; Liebowitz, Yaeli MS <s47E(d)> ; Robertson, Lachlan  
 LTCOL s47E(d) ; Woods, Dianna MRS 1 s47E(d)  
**Subject:** Media enquiry: Security Contact Reports - ABC Investigations - CM19-001544 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi team

Please see below for your clearance a media enquiry from the ABC Investigations team, regarding security contact reports under the PSPF.

s47C

**Journalist:** Danny Tran, ABC Investigations - It is believed that Mr Tran is working on story related to the IGADF Afghanistan inquiry.

**Deadline:** 10:00am Friday 20 September 2019

**Clearance:** Kylie Scholten, FAS Defence Security & Vetting Service (ph. s22

**Consultation:** DFAT has been consulted on the response and have been asked the same questions. I have asked DFAT to share their response with us.

### Question:

I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

### Response:

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.

All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

### Background ~~(not for public release)~~

The Protective Security Policy Framework requires all Australian Government personnel, including Defence APS, ADF, contractors, consultants, and outsourced service providers, engaged by Defence or working on Defence activities, to report contacts of concern both domestically and offshore.

**It would not be appropriate for Defence to comment on specific statistics, given the Reporting Scheme is not owned by Defence, and also due to the specific nature of the reports.** s47C

s47C

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,  
Claire

**Claire Galliford**  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
P: +61 2 6127 1999  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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---

**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Danny

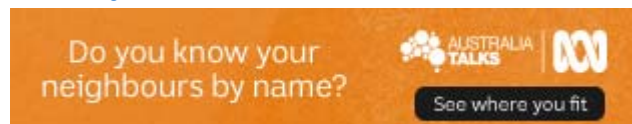


Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

---

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



-

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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

---

**From:** Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 4:10 PM  
**To:** DSVS-FAS Office  
**Cc:** Media; Carlson, Dean MR 1; Tharratt, Rachel; Heath, Cameron MR; Heba, Kathy MS; Meszes, Candice MS; Woods, Dianna MRS 1; Geering, John MR; Strategic Issues Management; Gu, Rebecca MS; Gard, Amelia MS; Daetz, Jenny CAPT - RAN; Liebowitz, Yaeli MS; Bellingham, Stuart GPCAPT; Arthur, Kim MS; Sawczak, Natalie MRS; MECC-MC-Directors-All; MECC-CC Comms Advisors Regional; Kelton, Alexandra MS; DLO ALL; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL; Hawthorn, James MR 1; 'Laube, Wade'; Deller, John MR; Butler, Charlotte MS; Ang, Kenny MR; Quinn, Kathleen MS  
**Subject:** Finalised media enquiry - CM19-001544 - Security Contact Reports - PRIORITY 2 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good afternoon DSVS,

FYSA the below response has been provided to Danny Tran at ABC Investigations.

This was cleared by OMINDEF.

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 **s47E(d)**

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** 'Danny Tran' <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RESPONSE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Good afternoon Danny,

Thanks for your enquiry. The following statement can be attributed to a spokesperson from Defence.

//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy. All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

Kind regards,

Tom

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

Thanks for speaking with me. As mentioned, I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

My deadline is Friday at 10am. Please give me a call if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

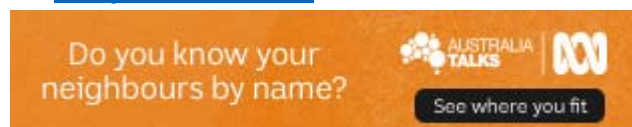
Danny



Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)



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**Dick, Gary MR 1**

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**From:** Lewis, Tom MR 1  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 4:15 PM  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** FW: RESPONSE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

s47C

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**From:** Lewis, Tom MR 1 On Behalf Of Media  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 4:12 PM  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** Media <media@dfat.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: RESPONSE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon s47E(d)

Please see our response to Mr Tran below.

Kind regards,

**Tom Lewis** | Senior Communications Officer  
**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600  
P: +61 2 s47E(d)  
E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 September 2019 3:59 PM  
**To:** 'Danny Tran' <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>  
**Cc:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RESPONSE: ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good afternoon Danny,

Thanks for your enquiry. The following statement can be attributed to a spokesperson from Defence.



//

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy. All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.

The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.

//

Kind regards,

Tom

**Defence Media** | Department of Defence

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Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

P: +61 2 6127 1999

E: [media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)

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**From:** Danny Tran <[Tran.Danny@abc.net.au](mailto:Tran.Danny@abc.net.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 September 2019 11:36 AM

**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** ABC media enquiry: Security Contact Reports

G'day Tom,

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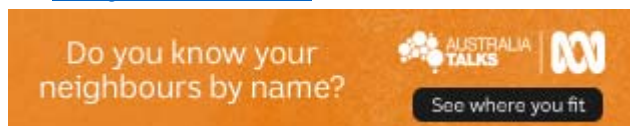
Danny



Danny Tran  
Reporter, ABC Investigations

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M 0414 011 751

E [danny.tran@abc.net.au](mailto:danny.tran@abc.net.au)

-

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**Australian Government**  
Department of Defence

## MEDIA ENQUIRY – CM19-001544

<b>Title:</b> Security Contact Reports	
<b>Journalist:</b> Danny Tran	<b>Publication:</b> ABC Investigations
<b>Enquiry Received:</b> 17 Sep, 11:30	<b>Due to MECC:</b> 18 Sep, 17:00
<b>Responsible Minister:</b> MINDEF	

### Question:

I'd like to get some data from the Department on security contact reports, specifically:

- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees this year alone;
- How many security contact reports were filed by Department employees in the 2018 calendar year;
- How many security contact reports were filed in 2010?
- How many of the people who filed security contact reports this year and in 2018 held the highest level of security clearance?
- Has there been an increase or decrease in security contact reports?
- What does the Department attribute this to?
- What is the accepted threshold for a security contact report to be filed?

### Response:

The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy. All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent. The scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefor considered sensitive in nature.

### Background ~~(not for public release)~~:

The PSPF requires all Australian government personnel, including Defence APS, ADF, contractors, and consultants and outsourced service providers, engaged by Defence or working on Defence activities, report contacts of concern both domestically and offshore.

Any contact that is considered to be suspicious, ongoing, unusual or persistent is to be reported through the scheme.

### Media Team:

Nil

**Groups/Services:** It is the responsibility of the business area to provide a brief background into the media topic/issue using the questions as a guide.

- Is this information already in the public domain? If so, where?
- Has the media previously asked questions on this topic? If so, what was the response?
- Was this mentioned in Parliament or at senate estimates recently?
- Was this as a result of a policy decision or legislative change?

**Unclassified**



**Australian Government**

**Department of Defence**

- Is this in relation to a recent incident that occurred in Australia or overseas?
- Have any of the groups or services seen this request? If so, what was their instruction?

**Clearances:**

<b>Group/Service</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Appointment/ Role</b>	<b>Contact Number</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>
<b>Drafted by: Contact Officer</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>Group/Service 1 Star or above</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>Strategic Comms Advisor</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>MECC</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18
<b>OSEC/OCDF</b>				00:00 XX XXX 18

**Unclassified**

**Dick, Gary MR 1**

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**From:** Moriarty, Greg MR  
**Sent:** Saturday, 29 June 2019 8:09 PM  
**To:** Heba, Kathy MS  
**Cc:** Arthur, Kim MS; Robertson, Lachlan LTCOL; Heath, Cameron MR  
**Subject:** Re: For Secretary review: CM19-001054 - PLA Supercomputers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

I am comfortable with the proposed response. Given the nature of the current reporting regime and the obligation on universities I don't think we can be any more definitive.

Thanks.

Greg

Sent from my iPhone

On 29 Jun 2019, at 7:53 pm, Heba, Kathy MS s47E(d) wrote:

Greg

As per whatsapp, Minister's office seeking your clearance of the below response (in yellow).

I understand Sheridan Kearnan and John Geering have seen it today. This one is also overdue to the journo.

Thank you

Kathy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 29 June 2019 at 7:45:00 pm AEST  
**To:** "Heba, Kathy MS" s47E(d)  
**Cc:** "Heath, Cameron MR" s47E(d) "Gard, Amelia MS" s47E(d) Media  
 <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>, "Arthur, Kim MS" s47E(d)  
**Subject:** For Secretary review: CM19-001054 - PLA Supercomputers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Kathy

As discussed, grateful if you could organise for the Secretary to have a look at the below revised response to the Ben Packham enquiry.

Please call me if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Claire

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Ang, Kenny MR" s47E(d)  
**Date:** 29 June 2019 at 6:21:48 pm AEST  
**To:** Media <[media@defence.gov.au](mailto:media@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** "Hamer, Nicky MS" s47E(d)  
 "Gard, Amelia MS" s47E(d) "Heath,  
 Cameron MR" s47E(d)  
**Subject:** FOR MECC ACTION: CM19-001054 - PLA  
 Supercomputers [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Good evening Claire,

As discussed, I have updated the template below (highlighted) with additional information provided by the journalist and a revised response.

Grateful if you could you please provide the revised response to the Secretary for clearance. Upon the Secretary's clearance, we will run the response past the Minister.

Amelia, Cameron: FYSA, Ben Packham is intending to publish his story for Monday's *Australian* and requires a response by no later than 1400 tomorrow.

## MEDIA ENQUIRY – CM19-001054

<b>Title:</b> Chinese Universities Supercomputers	
<b>Journalist:</b> Benn Packham	<b>Publication:</b> The Australian
<b>Enquiry Received:</b> 28/06/2019 1345	<b>Due to MECC:</b> 28/06/2019 1645
<b>Responsible Minister:</b> Reynolds	

### Question:

Hi Kevin,

I need some advice on this. I want to get it up as a story and need some sort of government reaction.

I think it's potentially pretty explosive.

It's by ASPI's Alex Joske and not yet published.

Joske wrote the Picking Flowers Making Honey report on PLA scientists doing work in western universities.

<https://www.aspi.org.au/report/picking-flowers-making-honey>

This new information is essentially as follow:

- There is a UNSW Professor, Xue Jingling, who is also listed as a doctoral supervisor for the PLA's National University of Defense Technology (NUDT).
- He is an expert in supercomputing.
- He has in the last decade or so at UNSW supervised nine PhD students from the PLA's NUDT.
- Most appear to come from NUDT's College of Computer and are supervised by PLA

supercomputer experts like Major-General Liao Xiangke and Lieutenant-General Yang Xuejun.

- The supercomputers at NUDT are believed to be used for nuclear weapons development and simulating wind tunnel tests for advanced aircraft.
- The US included NUDT on its Entity List, meaning any exports to the university are treated with a presumption of denial: “The TianHe-1A and TianHe-2 supercomputers are believed to be used in nuclear explosive activities”.
- Australia’s Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act 1995 prohibits the provision of services that contribute to the development of WMDs.
- **The question is - is it legal under Australia's WMD Act for an Australian University to collaborate with researchers who are affiliated with a Chinese University that, according to the US, supports nuclear weapons development?**

**Additional information from journalist received on 29 June 2019:**

UNSW are standing by their Prof and say: “UNSW sent a list of Professor Xue’s research projects to the Department of Defence in late 2017 and they confirmed they were not covered by government restrictions as they are deemed non-sensitive.” They also say they extensively audit academics in relation to dual use technology to ensure compliance with Defence Trade Controls Act. However, they have not specifically addressed my query about WMD Act.

**Revised response:**

Universities must comply with Australian export control law, including the *Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act*.

Defence regularly engages with universities, including UNSW, to ensure they are aware of and understand Australia’s export control framework.

This engagement raises academics and researchers’ awareness of proliferation risks and encourages them to seek guidance from Defence with respect to their obligations.

Defence also encourages universities to implement compliance measures to ensure they don’t breach Australian export controls, including the *WMD Act*.

Defence expects universities to take reasonable measures to satisfy themselves their activities do not

breach legislation including taking account of publicly available information.

Universities or researchers who become aware of an activity being conducted **that** may assist a WMD Program should seek advice from Defence Export Controls.

### Background ~~(not for public release)~~:

In 2018, Alex Joske released a publication entitled 'Picking Flowers, Making Honey' that outlined China's efforts to procure technology from western universities in support of the Chinese military.

The publication referenced in the media query is yet to be made public, but details the activities of a Professor in supercomputing at UNSW who, according to the extract provided, supervises Chinese PhD students from China's National University of Defence Technology. The extract asserts that the research undertaken by the PhD students would directly support China's nuclear weapons program.

Defence administers the *Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prevention of Proliferation) Act 1995* (WMD Act) which provides the Minister with the power to prohibit an activity, including the provision of a service, if she believes or suspects it would or might assist a WMD program.

Defence is not aware of the UNSW professor's activities and has not considered the application of the WMD Act in relation to them. Without further details on the activities conducted by the professor, or his PhD students, it is difficult to determine if an export permit would be required under other export control legislation, such as the *Defence Trade Controls Act 2012*.

### Clearances:

Group/Service	Name	Appointment/ Role	Contact Number	Date a
<b>Drafted by: Contact Officer</b>	Danielle Tuckfield Dr Sheridan Kearnan	A/ASDEC First Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy	0262654759 s22	16:21 29 Jun
<b>Group/Service 1 Star or above</b>	Danielle Tuckfield Dr Sheridan Kearnan	A/ASDEC First Assistant Secretary Defence Industry Policy	0262654759 s22	16:21 29 Jun
<b>Strategic Comms Advisor</b>				00:00



MECC	Amelia Gard	Director, Media		1650 2
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Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss.

Kindest regards,

**Kenny Ang**

Office of Senator the Hon Linda Reynolds CSC | Minister for Defence

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T +61 2 s47E(d) M s22 | E  
s47E(d)

**Department of Defence** | Suite MG.61 | Parliament House

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## CONTACT REPORTING

Item 4 Serial1

### Strategic Narrative

- The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.
- All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.
- The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage.
- Details about reporting, including the quantum of reports, are considered sensitive and cannot be disclosed publicly.

### KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

- Contact reporting is considered sensitive, and data is not publically available.

### Talking Points

#### *What is the contact reporting scheme used for?*

- To address the enduring threat posed by espionage. Information obtained through the scheme:
  - Provides ASIO with vital indicators of clandestine or deceptive activity, including attempts to cultivate or recruit Australian Government employees.
  - Assists ASIO to identify espionage and hostile foreign intelligence activity directed against Australia.
  - Informs ASIO's mitigations advice to Australian Government.

#### *Who makes contact reports? What is reported?*

- The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme, is managed by ASIO. All Australian Government employees should report.
- All Defence and defence industry personnel with security clearances are required to report instances where a person or group, seeks to obtain information they do not need to know.
- Any contacts of concern are to be reported that are:
  - Suspicious occurrences
  - Ongoing foreign contact
  - Unusual incidents
  - Persistent approaches
- Defence runs regular security communications such as the *8 Security Essentials* campaign and annual mandatory protective security training to build a strong security culture.

- Reminding staff of their obligations to report contacts is a key element of these activities.

***What does Defence do with the contact reports it receives?***

- Defence contact reports are coordinated through the internal case management system on the Defence Protected Network (DPN).
  - Reports can also be emailed by industry partners who do not have access to the DPN.
- Defence assesses all contact reports and provides them to ASIO.
  - This allows Defence to consider internal action or security advice.

***What does Defence do with the information? Does Defence take action?***

- Defence actions may include an internal security investigation, assessment to inform security threat advice for Defence, or to make improvements to Defence security policy and practices.

***What kind of matters are reported?***

- Reports can cover everything from seemingly benign or innocuous engagements, to contacts which can be attributed directly to attempts to access information.
- Contact could be official, social, or incidental such as :
  - suspicious phone calls
  - email requests
  - interactions with potentially suspicious persons
  - invitations to attend functions
  - sport or recreational activities
  - membership of international clubs, institutes, professional associations or friendship societies

***If asked, has Defence updated its security advice on Social Media after ASIO's warning on hostile intelligence services' using social media?***

- Defence regularly reminds staff about their obligations to report all contact that is suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.
- The Defence Security Principles Framework includes details of Contact Reporting Obligations.
- The Annual Security Awareness training includes a component on Contact Reporting obligations.
- ASIO's threat advice is available to all Defence employees through the Security Officer Network.
- Defence also has a Media and Communication Policy which outlines individuals' responsibilities when using social media.
- *Questions about the Media and Communication Policy should be referred to MECC.*

***Any further questions about the contact reporting scheme should be referred to ASIO.***

## Background

- The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy managed by ASIO as part of the Commonwealth Government Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF).
- The PSPF requires all Australian Government clearance holders, including Defence APS, ADF, contractors, and consultants and outsourced service providers, engaged by Defence or working on Defence activities, report contacts of concern both domestically and offshore.
- It is not necessary to report contact as part of official meetings provided a formal corporate record (e.g. meeting minute or cable) is produced detailing the topics discussed.
- The *Foreign Influence Transparency Scheme Act 2018* is an important transparency mechanism that is administered by the Attorney-General's Department.
- The scheme requires people and entities who undertake certain activities on behalf of a foreign principal to register the details of these on a public register.
  - It is the responsibility of each person or organisation to determine whether they need to register.
- Registerable activities are political lobbying, general lobbying, communications activity and disbursement activity, when undertaken on behalf of a foreign principal for the purpose of political or governmental influence.

**Any further questions about the FITS scheme should be referred to Attorney-General's Department.**

## Relevant Media

- **17 October 2019** – ABC News – “ASIO warns of 'hostile intelligence services' using social media in annual report”, reports ASIO's 2018-19 annual report expresses it's growing concern in the increase of "hostile intelligence services" targeting people across business and government.
- **17 September 2019 – ABC Media question** – Defence and other partner agencies (Department of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General's Department) received a media enquiry on contact reporting from the ABC on 17/10/2019. Response:
 

*The Australian Government Contact Reporting Scheme is a whole-of-government counter-espionage strategy.*

*All Australian Government employees are required to contribute to the scheme by reporting contacts that are suspicious, ongoing, unusual, or persistent.*

*The Scheme aims to address the enduring threat posed by espionage to the Australian Government and reporting is therefore considered sensitive in nature.*

Kylie Scholten First Assistant Secretary	Security and Vetting Service	02 6266 2606	s22
Jeremy Bulkely	Security Intelligence and Threats	02 s47E(d)	
<u>Consultation</u> Sarah	Attorney General's Department		