



DEFENCE FOI 245/21/22 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:

“...access to statistics regarding the Military Employment Classification Advisory and Review Service (MECARS). This request is an application for the purposes of this Act. As of 08 November 2021, how many MECARS cases are yet to be registered, how many MECARS cases are yet to be assigned and how many MECARS cases are overdue. ”

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 was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the description of this request. In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act:

- a. a written 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’ (section 17(1)(c)(i)); and
- b. producing the written document did not ‘substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations’ (section 17(2)).


Decision

4. I have decided to release the document in full. Note that the date for statistics is 15 November 2021 and not 8 November 2021. Advice from the responsible line area is that the data could not be back dated and reflected the most accurate statistics at the time the request was received into Joint Health Command.

Material taken into account

5. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the content of the identified documents 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); and
 - e. advice received from the Joint Health Command Directorate of Clinical Governance and Clinical Services.

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by paul.naveau1
Date: 2021.11.22
10:15:56 +11'00'

Paul Naveau
Accredited Decision Maker
Joint Health Command