



DEFENCE FOI 002/22/23 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 kindly request a copy of all emails and supporting file attachments, sent to/from | bcc/cc’d Chief of Air Force, Air Marshall Mel Hupfeld for the period 27 October 2021 to 30 June 2022 (inclusive), that contain any of the following keywords: Unidentified Aerial Phenomena; UAP; Unidentified Flying Object; UFO; Unidentified Flying Objects; UFOs; Unauthorised Aircraft Movement; UAM; Unauthorised Aircraft Movements; UAMs; Unusual Aerial Sighting, Unidentified Phenomena, Whish-Wilson. I also kindly request that personal details be limited to the full names of individuals involved in any applicable FOI response.”

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 as matching the description of the 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 sent to or from the applicant are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.

Decision

5. I have decided to:
- release one document in full; and
 - remove irrelevant material under section 22 of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

6. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- the terms of the request;
 - the content of the identified documents in issue;
 - relevant provisions in the FOI Act; and
 - the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

Reasons for decision

7. Section 22 of the FOI Act applies if:

a. 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 documents provided contain information (mobile telephone numbers and signatures) that do not relate to the scope of the request. I consider this information as 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 documents in that form.

Further Information

10. The document matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker (DLM). As the document has been approved for public release, the DLM has been struck through.

Paul.We
bb4

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by Paul.Webb4
Date: 2022.07.19
11:20:38 +10'00'

PJ Webb

Group Captain

Accredited Decision Maker

Royal Australian Air Force