



DEFENCE FOI 020/24/25

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by s22 (the applicant), dated and received on 7 August 2024 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

“I require information within the Defence Health Manual regarding the employability of members with an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury. Specifically, the suitability of recruiting a new member who has previously sustained an injury of the ACL, as well as the employability and suggested category of an existing member who has sustained such injury (service related or otherwise).”

s22

FOI decision maker

5. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

6. I have identified one document as falling within the scope of the request.

Decision

7. I have decided to partially release one document in accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act on the grounds that the deleted material is irrelevant.

Material taken into account

8. 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

- 9. 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.
- 10. The document identified contains irrelevant material such as material not relating to anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injury. This information does not fall within the scope of the request.
- 11. 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.

s22

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Date: 2024.08.26 17:42:34
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Accredited Decision Maker

Joint Health Command

Department of Defence