

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d) [Scott, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** [BRIG](#) s47E(d) 230330:0934 - s47E(d) 230330 - Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 9:34:05 AM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

s47E(d)

Thank you. The attached is consistent with my understanding and the recent MINADV on same.

Regards

s47E(d)

CAPT, RAN  
Director Legal, AIRTF

PH: s47E(d)

Mob: s22

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Date:** 30 March 2023 at 9:09:59 am AEDT  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** FW: Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Good morning s47E(d)

Yesterday I prepared a statement on behalf of CDF/OCDF to correct some misinformation regarding Protected Identity status circulating on social media – see attached.

The Admiral requested a copy was sent to you.

This was drafted using the SOCAUST cleared information for the campaign correspondence on a similar matter and has been cleared by DG AIRTF and HAIRTF.

It has already been provided to OCDF, but let me know if you see any errors (of which I assume there is none noting the content has previously been cleared).

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 March 2023 4:40 PM

**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Please find attached the statement on Defence Protected Identity status and its application.

The campaign correspondence response, parts of which have been pulled into this statement, has not been cleared by the Attorney-General/AGD. I'll let you know as soon as that occurs.

Let me know if there is anything else.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence.

Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** 230330:1459 - s47E(d) Fwd: On The Record Correction -  
Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 2:59:04 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

s47E(d), s47E(d) - thank you.

I have reviewed the version which includes s47E(d) edits, and it is cleared from my perspective.

Regards

s47E(d)  
CAPT, RAN  
Director Legal, AIRTF

PH: s47E(d)  
Mob: s22

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Date:** 30 March 2023 at 2:51:55 pm AEDT  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>, s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>, s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>, s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Sir

Suggested small amendment to this in the attached. I have talked my reasoning through with s47E(d)

Regards

s47E(d)

s47E(d)  
CMDR RAN  
Legal Officer  
AIRTF Legal Directorate

---

Department of Defence | Command Support Branch

s47E(d) | Russell Offices

s47E(d) | :s22 | s47E(d) @defence.gov.au |

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 2:41 PM

**To:** s47E(d) defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

The statement on Protected Identity status I sent yesterday afternoon has been updated within the AIRTF and by OCDF – see attached.

Appreciate your review of this statement again. I don't believe the intent or justifications have changed.

I will also list you in the clearance table once complete.

For awareness – I have sent this to Luke McGowan (MECC) and s47E(d) (for SOCOMD) for clearance before it is given to CDF.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 2:34 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke MR <[REDACTED] s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; Scott, Michael BRIG <[REDACTED] s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon [REDACTED] s47E(d) and Luke,

Please find attached an on the record correction regarding Defence Protected Identity status and its application for clearance.

This has been prepared to address misinformation circulating on social media, [REDACTED] s47F that individuals with Protected Identity Status will be named if they appear in court accused of a crime.

Luke – further to your conversation with RADM Wolski and OCDF yesterday morning, this is the version of the statement that will be provided for CDF clearance. If you have any comments please let me know.

I appreciate your immediate reviews and clearances as we are wanting to publish this statement asap so it can also be used in a media enquiry follow-up response to [REDACTED] s47F at ABC Radio Brisbane.

Please call if you have any questions and thanks in advance,  
[REDACTED] s47E(d)

[REDACTED] s47E(d)  
A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)  
**P:** [REDACTED] s47E(d) **M:** [REDACTED] s22 **E:** [REDACTED] s47E(d) <[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
[REDACTED] s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be

a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230405:1509 - s47E(d) For awareness: Defence statement on Defence Protected Identity status and its application  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 3:09:26 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon s47E(d) and s47E(d)

For awareness, please find attached a Defence statement on Defence Protected Identity status and its application which will be published on the Defence and Afghanistan Inquiry websites shortly.

For background, there has been misinformation circulating on social media regarding Defence Protected Identity status since the first charge was laid. s47F  
s47F incorrectly claimed in a tweet: "Important info for current & former ADF personnel with protected identity status (incl SF, Intel, OGAs). Per this morning's court proceedings s47F bail hearing], if you appear in court accused of a crime, official policy of MINDEF @RichardMarlesMP & @CDF\_Aust is your identity will be made public.

The statement should be published before COB today.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** s47E(d) [McGowan, Luke MR](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: CDF APPROVED - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity status and it's application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 2:00:38 PM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s47E(d)

Can the statement please be provided to ODPM at 2:30 for their awareness.

RADM Wolski and CDF have a meeting at 3pm, I expect the statement will be ready to be published following that meeting at 3:30. I will confirm when it can be published.

Separately, I raised the social media post with s47E(d) She is considering and seeking CDF's view.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 10:34 AM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke MR  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: CDF APPROVED - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity status and it's application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s47E(d)

As discussed, we will hold off until we hear from you.

Cheers

s47E(d)

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 9:26 AM  
**To:** McGowan, Luke MR <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: CDF APPROVED - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity status and it's application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Team – please hold on providing this statement to ODPM.

RADM Wolski has a meeting with CDF at lunchtime and has requested the statement is provided after that.

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] **M:** <sup>s22</sup> [redacted] **E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 9:16 AM  
**To:** McGowan, Luke MR <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] <[redacted]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: CDF APPROVED - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity status and it's application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning Luke and media team,

As briefly discussed with Luke, can you please provide a copy of the attached statement to ODPM for their awareness prior to it being published.

Appreciate if the statement can be published approximately one hour after it is provided to the office.

Can you please let me know when this has been provided to Office so I can separately provide a copy to the OSI for their awareness.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 8:58 AM

**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke MR

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** CDF APPROVED - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity status and it's application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Morning s47E(d)

The CDF has approved the attached statement and it is ready for publishing on the Defence website. Please progress through the regular Defence Media team processes.

s47E(d) final copy of the statement provided for CA and for DCA's awareness.

Luke – CDF has requested ODPM be provided with a copy of the statement before publishing for their awareness.

Regards

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** Wolski, Brett RADM  
**Cc:** s47E(d) Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230412:1639 - s47E(d) Social Media Commentary and Media Reporting on Protected Identity Status  
**Date:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 4:39:31 PM

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Thanks s47E(d)

Let's see what might play out in the media/social media over the coming days.

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 1:56 PM  
**To:** Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) defence.gov.au  
**Cc:** s47E(d) Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au; s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au  
**Subject:** Social Media Commentary and Media Reporting on Protected Identity Status  
[SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Good afternoon Sir,

Following our conversation this morning, I have searched social media and media reporting for commentary on Protected Identity status.

I searched Stroom and the last reporting including the phrase "protected identity status" or "PI status" was two weeks ago when s47F was interviewed on 2CC and s47F was interviewed on ABC Radio Brisbane following s47F arrest. In his interview, s47F s47F claimed Protected Identity status is for serving or previously serving individuals,

particularly in Special Forces, for their names and identities to be protected for very genuine and serious security reasons. The attached Weekly Media Summary provides a summary of both interviews on page four.

I also was unable to find any social media posts on PI status since <sup>s47F</sup> tweet which the on the record correction was drafted in response to.

<sup>s47F</sup> and The Pineapple Express also posted around the same time as <sup>s47F</sup>

I will keep an eye out for any new media reporting or social media posts. During my conversation with <sup>s47E(d)</sup> this morning we discussed potentially changing the statement from an on the record correction to a statement explaining Defence's position, which would involve changing the first two paragraphs, if new reporting or commentary occurs.

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> **M:** <sup>s22</sup> **E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230403:1658 - [Wolski, Brett RADM]-s47E(d) FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application  
**Date:** Monday, 3 April 2023 4:58:50 PM

---

**OFFICIAL**

s47E(d)

Cleared. I've had s47E(d) have a look over it as well with nil issues.

Brett

**Brett Wolski**  
**RADM, RAN**  
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force  
Command Support Branch - ADFHQ  
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22  
Email: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

Website: [www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/](http://www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 3 April 2023 4:05 PM  
**To:** Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d)@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Sir,

Following your earlier clearance an additional update to the statement was requested.

CDF was seeking a general statement that makes it clear Defence does not publicly name current or former serving members who appear in civil court. s47E(d) advised: If there is no suppression order on a name, then from a legal perspective it is open for Defence to publically disclose a name, however, it seems to be a matter of policy that we do not, particularly, if the name is not

otherwise publically known.

After speaking with [redacted] regarding [redacted] advice she agreed a general statement on Defence's policy/practice to not discuss an individual's details without their prior consent, regardless of the circumstances, should cover what they need.

I have drafted the additional paragraph, highlighted yellow, using information straight from the media and communication policy.

This has been cleared by Mick.

Appreciate your clearance of the new paragraph.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** [redacted] **M:** [redacted] **E:** [redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)

[redacted], Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** [redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Monday, 3 April 2023 1:07 PM

**To:** [redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG [redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>; [redacted]

[redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for the updated statement.



In addition to this, CDF would like to include a general statement about people who do not have PID, nor covered by any other national security requirement, who appear before a civil court - what is Defence's position? We do not release the names into the public - that is a matter for the courts.

Are you able to include something to that effect.

CDF wants to ensure it is clear that in all circumstances, Defence does not publicly name current or former serving members who appear in civil courts.

Thanks

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 3 April 2023 12:36 PM

**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)

s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

Thanks for the feedback.

The updated statement is attached, new paragraph highlighted yellow.

Please note, it would be highly unusual for Defence to step in for current and former members without PI this unless there was a national security issue (in which case current serving members would likely have PI status or be covered by legislation and former members wouldn't likely raise national security issues).

This has been cleared by <sup>s47E(d)</sup> Mick and the Admiral.

Let me know if there is anything else.

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> **M:** <sup>s22</sup> **E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2023 4:43 PM

**To:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Further to my last, CDF is happy to review the updated statement on Monday.

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

**M:** <sup>s22</sup>

**E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2023 4:36 PM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s47E(d)

The CDF has reviewed the statement and requested an additional paragraph about what Defence do or doesn't do for persons who do not hold PID with regard to naming of persons in court cases.

Appreciate if the AIRTF could please include this information into the latest version of the statement for CDF's review.

Regards  
s47E(d)

s47E(d)  
Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence  
P: s47E(d)  
M: s22  
E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d)  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2023 1:20 PM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks [redacted]

OCDF made one minor amendment to the additional sentence added by [redacted]

Latest version attached. This is the version that will progress to CDF for his consideration.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: [redacted]

M: [redacted]

E: [redacted]@defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** [redacted]@defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2023 11:38 AM

**To:** [redacted]@defence.gov.au>; [redacted]

[redacted]@defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** Scott, Michael BRIG [redacted]@defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

One final change from AIRTF please.

In the second last paragraph, [redacted] has suggested a new sentence is added at the end of the paragraph: "However, decision of disclosure will be a matter for the courts". This follows the sentence on the Commonwealth obo Defence applying for suppression orders to prohibit the disclosure of information in certain circumstances.

[redacted] rightly pointed out that it is the courts who will grant or deny suppression and non-publication orders and that they may also take other information, not just Defence policy and request, into consideration.

s47E(d) Mick and the Admiral have all cleared this version to be provided to CDF and I have updated the clearance table.

Separately, s22 [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

Thanks,

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) [REDACTED] **M:** s22 [REDACTED] **E:** s47E(d) [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au

s47E(d) [REDACTED] Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 31 March 2023 10:58 AM

**To:** s47E(d) [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d) [REDACTED]

s47E(d) [REDACTED] and I have reviewed and made some additional edits. I will call to discuss. Please see attached.

Thanks

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

s47E(d) [REDACTED]

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 9:39 PM

**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

### OFFICIAL

Hi s47E(d)

I have added the extra AIRTF amendment (re placement of 'related to the Afghanistan Inquiry') into the attached statement provided by Luke.

I note the attached version still has information on Protected Identity status being afforded to some SOCOMD & SF qualified members which Army requested be deleted. However, when this sentence is removed from the attached statement the rest of the paragraph doesn't quite make sense.

My preference is to keep the information in the statement noting it's been cleared for inclusion in the campaign corro.

I would also like to refer to Protected Identity status, rather than PID status, through the document as that is what's it's being called on social media and in public commentary.

I don't mind the first two sentences being swapped so the statement begins by highlighting the misinformation and am happy with the order and content of the last three paragraphs.

I'm happy to re-work the statement in the morning but will wait to speak to you first and hear your thoughts.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

P: s47E(d) M: s22 E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** McGowan, Luke MR s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:Luke.McGowan@defence.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 5:28 PM  
**To:** s47E(d) [defence.gov.au](mailto:Luke.McGowan@defence.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** s47E(d) s47E(d)  
s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:Luke.McGowan@defence.gov.au)>; s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:Luke.McGowan@defence.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks s47E(d)

The attached version is mainly about reordering for readability (particularly for those not familiar with the subject), removing duplication and using the PID acronym consistently.

I have incorporated Army's changes from the version cleared by MAJGEN Fox.

Please let me know if you have any questions and of course happy to discuss if needed.

Regards,

Luke

**Luke McGowan**

Assistant Secretary Media and Information Disclosure  
Ministerial and Executive Coordination and Communication (MECC) Division | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra  
P: s47E(d) Mob: s22

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:Luke.McGowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 4:55 PM

**To:** McGowan, Luke MR <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** FW: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Luke,

I understand you are looking at the statement now.

Please find attached Army's edits. Appreciate if you could please offer suggestions on this version for version control, if it's not too late.

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> **M:** <sup>s22</sup> **E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 4:52 PM

**To:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>; McGowan, Luke MR

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>; Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:michael.scott@defence.gov.au)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto:luke.mcgowan@defence.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi <sup>s47E(d)</sup>



Please find attached edits from MAJGEN Fox. SOCAUST approved the original version and will receive the updates as an FYSA.

Could I please have a copy of the final version to keep all Principles in the loop.

Cheers

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Director, Army Communication, Army Headquarters

Phone: s22 | Email: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22

**From:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**To:** [Scott, Michael BRIG](#) s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d) [AIRTF Communications](#)  
**Subject:** 230405:2115 - s47E(d) Defence on the record statement to be published  
**Date:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 9:15:08 PM

---

s47E(d)

I agree that a short statement is not necessarily better. Especially noting it is to correct the record rather than be a media response.

Please discuss in the morning.

Thanks

Brett

Sent from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2023, at 4:57 pm, Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks s47E(d) it starts to lose some of the impact. Also, if this is a Department statement, I think it should go out as written so long as ODPM has no issues with content.

Ultimately, CDF should have the final say.

Cheers

Michael (Mick) Scott  
BRIG  
DG AIRTF

Mob: s22

Send from my iPhone

On 5 Apr 2023, at 4:52 pm, s47E(d)  
s47E(d) @defence.gov.au> wrote:

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Good afternoon Sir and Mick,

For your awareness for the time being, s47E(d) ODPM's media advisor, has shortened the statement to three paragraphs – see below.

I will discuss with <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force  
(AIRTF)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> **M:** <sup>s22</sup> **E:**

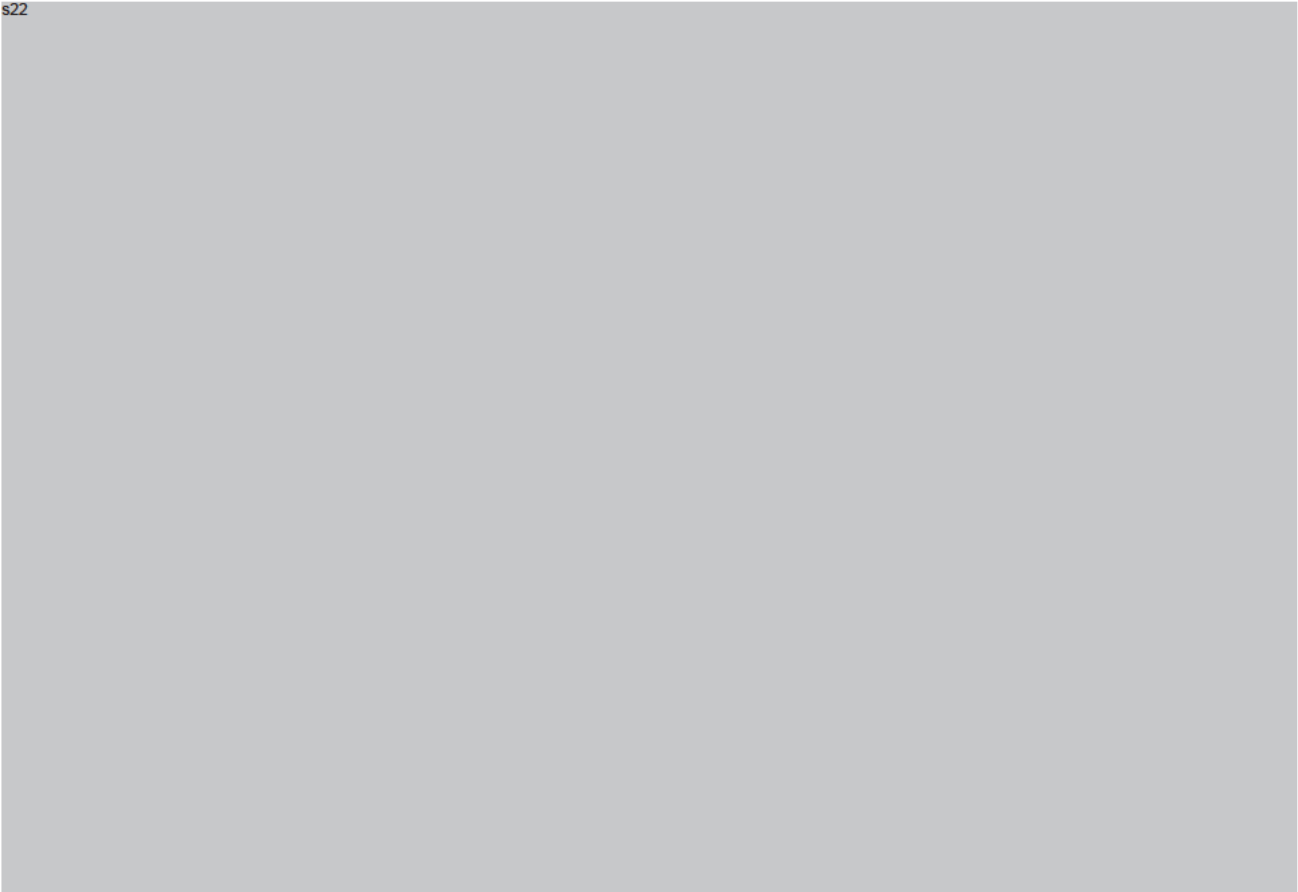
<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 April 2023 3:32 PM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke MR s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** Defence on the record statement to be published  
[SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Hi s47E(d)

Please find attached an on the record statement Defence is intending to publish this afternoon.

This has been prepared to address misinformation circulating on social media, namely by s47F that individuals with Protected Identity Status will be named if they appear in court accused of a crime. Misinformation on social media started spreading following s47F being charged and named.

This has been cleared by CDF.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

s47E(d)

s47E(d) A/Director

**Defence Media** | Media and Information Disclosure Branch | Department of  
Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

Alt E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

<image001.png>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



s22

**From:** [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 11 April 2023 9:18 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke  
MR [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>;  
[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>; Wolski, Brett RADM  
[REDACTED]@defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Morning,

Just an update to let you know we won't issue a correct the record statement about Defence Protected Identity Status (PID) at this time. We will hold the CDF cleared statement for use, if appropriate, if and when factually incorrect information about PID and its application circulates again in the public domain.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: [REDACTED]

M: [REDACTED]

E: [REDACTED]@defence.gov.au

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230330:1417 - s47E(d) Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx  
**Date:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 2:17:37 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s47E(d)

A few more minor edits from OCDF. Happy for this version to progress to Army and MECC for clearance.

Thanks

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 1:50 PM

**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

**Cc:** s47E(d)

**Subject:** RE: Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Hi s47E(d)

As discussed, AIRTF is happy with yours and s47E(d) edits overall, but have made a few further amendments:

- Removal of 'during their service in Special Operations Command (SOCOMD)' from the first paragraph noting non-SOCOMD personnel who are likely to return are also afforded PI status; and
- Removal of 'currently posted to' (regarding Special Forces qualified members in

SOCOMD) as the bit before stating 'This policy applies to come current serving members of Special Operations Command' also captures Special Forces qualified members.

Once you and [redacted] are happy with the statement, I will send it to [redacted] and Luke as well as [redacted] in the Task Force for their clearances, before returning it to you.

I'll also talk to the Admiral about not waiting for the AGD response.

If you have any questions about our changes please call.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** [redacted] **M:** [redacted] **E:** [redacted] @defence.gov.au

[redacted] Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** [redacted] @defence.gov.au>

**Sent:** Thursday, 30 March 2023 11:53 AM

**To:** [redacted] @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** RE: Statement - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application.docx  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached the draft statement with OCDF edits for consideration by the AIRTF before we progress to the CDF.

Appreciate advice from the AIRTF [redacted] as to whether consultation with Defence Legal is required at this time.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]



Communication Adviser to General Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** AIRTF Communications; Scott, Michael BRIG (d) s47E  
**Subject:** 230403:1742 - s47E(d) FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction -  
 Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application  
**Date:** Monday, 3 April 2023 5:42:44 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

## OFFICIAL

Hi ) s47E(d) and s47E(d)

Please see attached the updated statement.

As discussed with s47E(d) if there is no suppression order (as granted by a court) on a name, then from a legal perspective Defence can legally disclose a name publicly. For Defence though, it is more a matter of policy and practice that we do not disclose names.

An example of this is the recent charge against s47F for s47F. s47F was not granted a suppression order s47F. However, in all public facing comms products, including contingency talking points and the QB, we have referred to him as “an individual”.

Instead of drafting a new statement on Defence’s position on naming individuals without PID status or other coverage who appear before a civil court noting the above, and agreed with s47E(d) I have drafted a paragraph on broader Defence policy and practice to not discuss individuals or their circumstances without prior consent (in line with the *Privacy Act*).

The relevant policy is the Defence Media and Communication Policy, point 1.26 c: ‘personnel must only release official content or make public comment on behalf of Defence that is: (c) not likely to compromise operational security, **an individual’s privacy without their prior consent**, Australia’s international relationships, commercial-in-confidence, the safety of Defence personnel or their families, or risk the waiving of legal professional privilege;

This has been cleared by s47E(d) Mick and the Admiral.

Let me know if you have any questions or there is anything else.

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised

communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(d) [McGowan, Luke MR](#); s47E(d) [Wolski, Brett RADM](#); s47E(d)  
**Subject:** s47E(d) (AIRTF Communications; Scott, Michael BRIG s47E(d) 230413:1540 - s47E(d) -[Media] Defence on the record statement to be published  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 3:40:26 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
s22

---

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Good afternoon all,

Following s47E(d) below email, RADM Wolski has spoken to her on the phone and s47E(d) has agreed that the full, attached statement can be published on the Defence website s47E(d) has not agreed to any social media posts regarding the statement.

Media team – appreciate if you can please upload the statement to the website and advise when this has occurred.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



s22



**From:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 10:24 AM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; McGowan, Luke MR  
 s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>;  
 s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; Wolski, Brett RADM  
 s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Good morning s47E(d)

Following on from s47E(d) email below, there has been further factually incorrect information about PID circulating on social media overnight as a result of s47F APH petition titled 'Protected Identity for our Veterans and their families'. The petition can be viewed [here](#).

We would like to publish the attached CDF approved on the record statement on the Defence website today.

Please let me know if you have any concerns. I will wait to hear from you before we publish.

Many thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Deputy Communication Adviser to GEN Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

(Please note I do not work on Wednesdays)

s22



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** Wolski, Brett RADM; s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230413:1010 - s47E(d) [Wolski, Brett RADM] Defence on the record statement to be published  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 10:10:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

Hi Sir, s47E(d)

I've briefed CDF and he is comfortable to release the statement as is. He would like us to wait to hear back from s47E(d) ODPM to ensure they are aware before we publish.

I will reply over the top of s47E(d) email below now. If I have not heard back from s47E(d) within the next 2 hours, I will call her mobile.

Regards,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

Deputy Communication Adviser to GEN Angus Campbell, AO, DSC  
Chief of the Defence Force

Department of Defence

P: s47E(d)

M: s22

E: s47E(d) @defence.gov.au

(Please note I do not work on Wednesdays)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** Wolski, Brett RADM s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 9:13 AM  
**To:** s47E(d) @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** FW: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

**OFFICIAL: Sensitive**

**Brett Wolski**  
**RADM, RAN**  
Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

Command Support Branch - ADFHQ  
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: s47E(d) | Mob: s22

Email: s47E(d)@defence.gov.au

Website: [www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/](http://www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22





**From:** s47E(d) n behalf of s47E(d)  
**To:** s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** Social Media Report: IGADF - [05 April - 13 April] [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 11:14:26 AM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning,

The Social Media Hub has prepared a social media report that follows the ongoing conversations in relation to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force Afghanistan Inquiry Report. The focus for the report is Twitter and Facebook.

**Time**

0930, 05 April to 0930, 13 April 2023

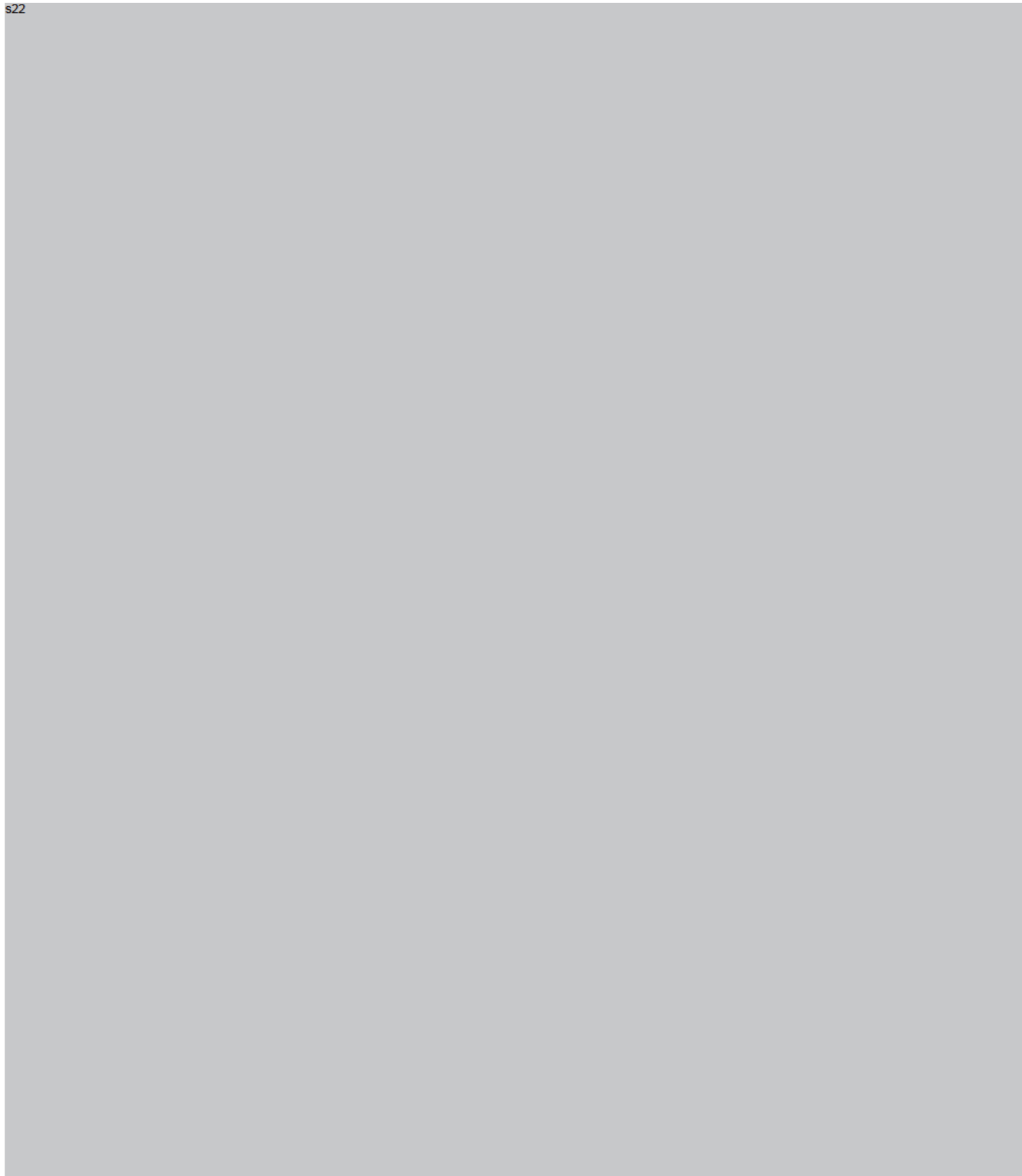
s22

**Protected Identity Status**

•

s47F [REDACTED] posted “The recent national and international publication of the full name, picture and further identity details of an SAS soldier, accused of a criminal offence in relation to a war crimes, has exposed a critical gap in the responsible protections needed for our Veterans and their family members”.

- s47F [REDACTED] posted a link to a petition on Twitter, [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) with “The recent national and international publication of the full name, picture and further identity details of an SAS soldier, accused of a criminal offence in relation to a war crimes, has exposed a critical gap in the responsible protections needed for our Veterans and their family members. Protections that are otherwise afforded to sex offenders within Australia”.



s22

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

**Social Media Specialist, Defence Social Media Hub**

Defence News Bureau | Media and Information Disclosure

Ministerial and Executive Coordination and Communication Division (MECC)

Department of Defence | s47E(d) Russell Offices | PO Box 7901 Canberra BC ACT 2610

**Phone:** s22 | **Email:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

**Follow us on Twitter:** @DefenceAust

For all social media requests, please contact: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

For information on best practice & training please see: [Defence Social Media Hub](#)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.



s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted]; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>;  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted]  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>; s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>;  
s47E(d) [redacted] @defence.gov.au>

**Subject:** Social Media Report: Current Defence Issues [28 March - 29 March 2023]  
[SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good morning,

The Social Media Hub has prepared an updated **Current Defence Issues** social media report from 0930, 28 March - 0930, 29 March 2023.

s22



s22

## Afghanistan Inquiry

s22

- s47F posted a series of tweets about the identity of current and former ADF personnel with protected identities who appear in court accused of crimes will be made public. s47F further references the Defence Act and Criminal Code stating "They throw you to the media wolves like this, or throw you in jail as a whistleblower." Nil commentary. Sentiment of post negative to Defence and government.
  - s47F also posted on this topic, sharing a video of him speaking with Steve Austin on ABC Radio Drive. s47F states a petition has been lodged with the government to protect the identities of Special Forces Veterans. Low commentary. Sentiment negative to Defence and government.

s22

Kind regards,

s47E(d)

**Social Media Specialist**

Defence News Bureau | Ministerial and Executive Coordination and Communication Division (MECC)  
Department of Defence | <sup>s47E(d)</sup> Russell Offices | PO Box 7901 Canberra BC ACT 2610  
P: <sup>s22</sup> E: <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

Defending Australia and its National Interests  
[www.defence.gov.au](http://www.defence.gov.au)



---

**Follow us on Twitter:** @DefenceAust

For all social media requests, please contact: <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](mailto: @defence.gov.au)

For information on best practice & training please see: [Defence Social Media Hub](#)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(d) s47E(d)  
**Subject:** 230403 - FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 3 April 2023 4:56:41 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Sir

Thank you. No difficulties with the proposed sentence.

I note for completeness though that when names are not suppressed and or are already out in the public sphere in relation to a particular subject, as a matter of law we would be able to raise names.

Regards

s47E(d)

Captain, RAN  
Director Legal  
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force  
Director Navy Legal Service  
Command Support Branch – ADFHQ  
s47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Mob: s22 | Ph: s47E(d)

E-mail: s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](#)

s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](#)

Web: <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

IMPORTANT: This document contains legal advice and may be subject to legal professional privilege. Unless it is waived or lost, legal professional privilege is a rule of law that, in part, provides that the client need not disclose confidential communications between a legal practitioner and client. To keep this privilege, the purpose and content of this advice must only be disclosed to persons who have a need to know and on the basis that those persons also keep it confidential.

You should consider this advice and take it into account when forming a decision on how best to proceed. If you decide to adopt a position that does not align with this advice, you should not state that Defence Legal has cleared or endorsed a particular position.

IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** FW: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL, ~~Sensitive~~]  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 1:05:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Sir,

s47E(d) number is: s47E(d)

If you cannot reach her on that number let me know and I can ask if someone in MECC has her mobile number.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](#)

R1-06-A, Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



**From:** [Scott, Michael BRIG](#) <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR CLEARANCE: On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 3 April 2023 7:47:04 AM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Sir – as discussed, <sup>s47E(d)</sup> and <sup>s47E(d)</sup> will develop the paragraph this morning.

Mick

**Michael (Mick) Scott**  
Brigadier  
Director General  
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

---

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
Russell Offices  
PO Box 7902  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

T: <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
M: <sup>s22</sup>  
email: <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)

*If you receive this email outside normal working hours, there is no expectation that you will read or action it until the next working day. If there is an urgent matter, I will call you.*

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22



**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** FW: FOR CLEARANCE: Update - On The Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 3 April 2023 12:06:11 PM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon Sir,

CDF requested an additional paragraph on what Defence does or does not do for individuals without PI status in regards to the naming of them in court – see s47E(d) email below.

The statement has been updated accordingly, new paragraph is highlighted yellow, and cleared by s47E(d) and Mick.

When drafting this with s47E(d) she made the point that it would be highly unusual for Defence to step in for current and former members without PI status unless there was a national security issue (in which case current serving members would likely have PI status or be covered by legislation and former members wouldn't likely raise national security issues).

Appreciate your clearance before returning to OCDF.

s22

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTf)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s22

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#)  
**Subject:** On the Record Correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its Applications - Previous versions [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 31 March 2023 9:05:40 AM  
**Attachments:** s22

---

**OFFICIAL**

Sir,

Please find attached the Army edited version of the statement, cleared by DCA and SOCAUST, and the version that was provided to Army and MECC.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** s47E(d)  
**To:** [Wolski, Brett RADM](#); [Scott, Michael BRIG](#) s47E(d)  
**Cc:** s47E(d)  
**Subject:** Page visit statics - On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its application [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Monday, 17 April 2023 3:52:04 PM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Good afternoon Sir, Mick, s47E(d) and s47E(d)

As requested by RADM Wolski, please be advised the On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its application webpage has been viewed a total of 105 times since it was uploaded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April. Twenty three of those views were on 13 April.

Thanks,

s47E(d)

s47E(d)

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** s47E(d) **M:** s22 **E:** s47E(d) [@defence.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d)@defence.gov.au)

s47E(d) Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

**From:** Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**To:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**Cc:** Wolski, Brett RADM  
**Subject:** RE: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 4:07:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Great work <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

**Michael (Mick) Scott**  
Brigadier  
Director General  
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
Russell Offices  
PO Box 7902  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

**T:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**M:** <sup>s22</sup>  
**email:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)

*If you receive this email outside normal working hours, there is no expectation that you will read or action it until the next working day. If there is an urgent matter, I will call you.*

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** Wolski, Brett RADM <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 4:02 PM  
**To:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; McGowan, Luke MR <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>; Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [@defence.gov.au](#)>  
**Subject:** RE: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL:~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Thanks to all for the quick work on this. Much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Brett

**Brett Wolski**

**RADM, RAN**

Head AIRTF

Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

Command Support Branch - ADFHQ

§47E(d) | Russell Offices | ACT 2600

Ph: §47E(d) | Mob: §22

Email: §47E(d)@defence.gov.au

Website: [www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/](http://www.defence.gov.au/Afghanistan-Inquiry/)

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

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

**Sent:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 3:50 PM

**To:** §47E(d)@defence.gov.au

**Cc:** §47E(d)@defence.gov.au; McGowan, Luke MR

§47E(d)@defence.gov.au; §47E(d)@defence.gov.au;

Wolski, Brett RADM §47E(d)@defence.gov.au; §47E(d)

§47E(d)@defence.gov.au; §47E(d)@defence.gov.au; §47E(d)

§47E(d) Scott, Michael BRIG §47E(d)

§47E(d)@defence.gov.au; §47E(d)@defence.gov.au

**Subject:** RE: Defence on the record statement to be published [SEC=OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~]

**OFFICIAL: ~~Sensitive~~**

Good afternoon §47E(d)

This is now online at: [On the record correction - Defence Protected Identity Status and its application | Defence](#)

Please let me know if you require any changes to the title etc.

Kind regards,

§47E(d) Media Advisor

**Media and Information Disclosure Branch** | Department of Defence

---

Russell Offices | Canberra ACT 2600

E §47E(d)@defence.gov.au

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

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the

**From:** Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**To:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> Wolski, Brett RADM; <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> Woods, Jason MR; <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**Subject:** RE: <sup>s47F</sup> APH Petition - Protected Identity for our Veterans & their families [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023 7:42:27 AM

---

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks <sup>s47E(d)</sup> The fact that <sup>s47F</sup> describes <sup>s47F</sup> as 'an SAS soldier' [not a former Special Forces member] in his petition is misleading. I think the 'record correction' or similar should still go out to address the matter so at least the facts are out in the public arena.

Cheers

Mick

**Michael (Mick) Scott**  
Brigadier  
Director General  
Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force

---

<sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
Russell Offices  
PO Box 7902  
CANBERRA BC ACT 2610

**T:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup>  
**M:** <sup>s22</sup>  
**email:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au

*If you receive this email outside normal working hours, there is no expectation that you will read or action it until the next working day. If there is an urgent matter, I will call you.*

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

---

**From:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 12 April 2023 10:30 PM  
**To:** Wolski, Brett RADM <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>; Scott, Michael BRIG <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>  
**Cc:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> Woods, Jason MR <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>; <sup>s47E(d)</sup> @defence.gov.au>  
**Subject:** <sup>s47F</sup> APH Petition - Protected Identity for our Veterans & their families [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**OFFICIAL**

Good evening Sir, Mick and <sup>s47E(d)</sup>

<sup>s47F</sup> has created an APH petition titled 'Protected Identity for our Veterans & their



families'. The description is as follows:

The recent national and international publication of the full name, picture and further identity details of an SAS soldier, accused of a criminal offence in relation to a war crimes, has exposed a critical gap in the responsible protections needed for our Veterans and their family members. Protections that are otherwise afforded to sex offenders within Australia. Protections that our Special Forces Veterans are told they are afforded with their protected identity status during service. However, this protected identity status is not currently enshrined in federal legislation and therefore not currently legally enforceable. Legislation is needed immediately And must be an absolute priority for all elected Members of Parliament Senators.

### Petition Request

We therefore ask the House to immediately pass legislation to protect the identities of our current and former serving special forces personnel, and all Australian Defence Force personnel accused of any crimes or investigations arising from any operational service. To afford our Veterans and their families protection from the existential threats that may arise from such circumstances, and to ensure our Veterans and their families are afforded due process and the presumption of innocence free from any public or media influence prior to the conclusion of all final judiciary proceedings.

The petition currently has 222 and closes on 10 May 2023. It can be viewed [here](#).

As with all APH petitions, once it closes it will be presented to the House of Representatives then referred to a Minister. The Minister will respond to the petition as the final stage.

I have so far seen the petition promoted on social media by <sup>s47F</sup> [redacted] and <sup>s47F</sup> [redacted]  
<sup>s47F</sup> [redacted]

Thanks,

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted]

A/Director Communication, Afghanistan Inquiry Response Task Force (AIRTF)

**P:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] **M:** <sup>s22</sup> [redacted] **E:** <sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] [@defence.gov.au](mailto:[redacted]@defence.gov.au)

<sup>s47E(d)</sup> [redacted] Russell Offices

**Website:** <https://www.defence.gov.au/about/reviews-inquiries/afghanistan-inquiry>

**IMPORTANT:** This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.