



## DEFENCE FOI 399/23/24

### STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by James Smith (the applicant), dated and received on 31 October 2023 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth) (FOI Act):

*...all manuals, guides, presentations, memos, policies, or guidelines (or similar) relating to:*

1. *taking action against users of Facebook or Instagram, or their accounts or posts (for example, reporting, banning, blocking, or taking down such users, accounts or posts)*
2. *contacting or corresponding with Meta, Facebook or Instagram - from 1 January 2020 to the date of the response to this application.*

#### 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 three (3) documents 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 partially release the documents in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act on the grounds that the deleted material is considered irrelevant to the request.

#### Material taken into account

6. 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; 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

7. 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 be reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access.

8. The documents contain information that does not relate to the request.
9. I am satisfied that it is reasonably practicable to remove the irrelevant material and release the documents to you in an edited form.

**Dean Halpin**

A/Assistant Secretary Media and Information Disclosure

Associate Secretary Group

Department of Defence