



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Mr Alan Ashmore

By email only: request-9849-240a7825@righttoknow.org.au

Our reference: LEX 55801

Dear Mr Ashmore

IC review MR23/00929 – s 55G decision to release documents

I refer to your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), made on 18 January 2023, for access to:

all briefing papers, updates, etc. from Liz Cosson and her staff to the new Secretary Alison Frame.

On 13 July 2023, we advised you that we had refused your request under s 24(1) of the FOI Act.

On 21 November 2023 the Department was notified about your application for Information Commissioner review (MR23/00929) of our decision.

On 15 January 2024, we advised you that we would make a revised decision on your request to give access to some documents to you under s 55G of the FOI Act. We also notified you of our intention to release documents to you in a staged approach, with the first tranche of documents being provided to you by 5 February 2024.

Section 55G decision to release documents – stage one

I have decided to grant access to 22 documents in full and 8 documents in part. Some text is redacted in accordance with your confirmation on 30 January 2024 that you did not press for the release of staff details.

A schedule of documents to which my decision relates is attached.

Due to the file size, we request that you provide a direct email address so that the documents released with this decision can be sent to you via a SIGBOX link.

Decision in relation to further documents and reasons to be provided

We are now working to provide you with a further and final access decision under s 55G by 26 February 2024 to give access to any further documents identified for your request or reasons for exemption of any material.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Pettitt', written in a cursive style.

Liane Pettitt
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Ministerial, Engagement and Communications Division

5 February 2024

DVA Incoming Secretary brief - schedule of Tranche 1 documents

| Doc ref# | Date of document | Document description | Folio | Access decision |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| Document 1: Email - Day 1 Session 1 – Portfolio Overview | | | | |
| 1.1 | 06/01/2023 | Email to Alison Frame | 1 | Grant access in part |
| 1.2 | n.d. | Attachment to email: Meeting agenda – Day 1 | 3 | Grant access in full |
| Document 4: Email - Day 2 Session 1 - Repatriation Commission & General Counsel | | | | |
| 4.1 | 06/01/2023 | Email to Alison Frame | 5 | Grant access in part |
| Document 5: Email - Day 2 Session 2 - Veteran & Family Policy Group | | | | |
| 5.1 | 06/01/2023 | Email to Alison Frame | 7 | Grant access in part |
| Document 6: Email - Day 2 Session 3 - Enabling Services & Commemorations Group | | | | |
| 6.1 | 07/01/2023 | Email to Alison Frame | 8 | Grant access in part |
| 6.2 | n.d. | Attachment to email: Enabling Services Overview | 10 | Grant access in full |
| Document 7: Pack- Day 1 Session 1 – Portfolio Overview | | | | |
| 7.1 | n.d. | Session overview | 15 | Grant access in full |
| 7.2 | n.d. | Portfolio Overview | 17 | Grant access in part |
| 7.3 | n.d. | Portfolio Overview 2022 | 119 | Grant access in full |
| 7.4 | 2022 | Corporate Plan 2022-23 | 135 | Grant access in full |

| Doc ref# | Date of document | Document description | Folio | Access decision |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 7.5 | n.d. | Strategic Direction 2022 | 171 | Grant access in full |
| 7.6 | 2022 | Annual Report 2021-22 | 183 | Grant access in full |
| 7.7 | 2022 | Portfolio Budget Statements 2022-23 | 423 | Grant access in full |
| Document 9: Pack - Day 1 Session 2 – Royal Commission into Defence & Veteran Suicide | | | | |
| 9.1 | n.d. | Session Overview | 543 | Grant access in full |
| 9.2 | n.d. | Royal Commission Implementation Division overview | 545 | Grant access in full |
| 9.11 | 16/12/2022 | Weekly dashboard | 547 | Grant access in full |
| Document 10: Pack - Day 1 Session 3 – Veteran and Family Services Group | | | | |
| 10.1 | n.d. | Session Overview | 548 | Grant access in full |
| 10.2 | n.d. | Veteran and Family Services Group overview | 550 | Grant access in full |
| 10.3 | n.d. | Claim processing times | 557 | Grant access in full |
| 10.4 | n.d. | Claims processing deep dive | 563 | Grant access in full |
| 10.6 | n.d. | Face to face service review into 2023 and beyond | 599 | Grant access in full |
| Document 13: Pack - Day 2 Session 2 – Veteran & Family Policy Group | | | | |
| 13.1 | n.d. | Session Overview | 608 | Grant access in part |

| Doc ref# | Date of document | Document description | Folio | Access decision |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------|
| 13.2 | n.d. | Veteran & Family Policy Group Overview | 610 | Grant access in full |
| 13.3 | 31/10/2022 | Veterans' and Families' Hubs | 612 | Grant access in full |
| Document 14: Pack - Day 2 Session 3 -Enabling Services & Commemorations Group | | | | |
| 14.1 | n.d. | Session Overview | 613 | Grant access in part |
| 14.2 | n.d. | Enabling Services and Commemorations Group overview | 617 | Grant access in part |
| 14.3 | January 2023 | Budget Deep Dive | 623 | Grant access in full |
| 14.6 | November 2022 | All staff wellbeing survey | 631 | Grant access in full |
| Document 15: Pack - Day 2 Session 4 – Commemorations & Office of Australian War Graves | | | | |
| 15.1 | n.d. | Session overview | 651 | Grant access in full |
| 15.2 | n.d. | Commemorations and Office of Australian War Graves Overview | 653 | Grant access in full |