



DEFENCE FOI 881/23/24

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by Ghyas Alam (the applicant), dated and received on 3 May 2024 by the Department of Defence (Defence), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

I am writing to request information regarding the number of people with disabilities who have applied for APS positions through the Recruitability Scheme, as well as their success rates in securing employment within Department of Defence.

Please include details such as the total number of applicants with disabilities, the number of successful applicants offered positions, and any relevant demographic breakdowns or trends observed within Department of Defence. Additionally, if there are any existing reports or publications on this topic, I would be grateful to receive them alongside the requested data.

Background

2. On 29 May 2024, Defence sought clarification from the applicant regarding the scope of their request. On 31 May 2024, the applicant agreed to revise their request to be for material relating to the previous financial year (22/23) and the current financial year (23/24) only.
3. On 31 May 2024, with the applicant's written agreement Defence extended the period for dealing with the request from 2 June 2024 until 16 June 2024 in accordance with section 15AA [extension of time with agreement] of the FOI Act.

FOI decision maker

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

Documents identified

5. I have identified two documents as falling within the scope of the request.
6. One of the documents was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the scope of the applicant's request whereby:
 - a) the document was produced using 'a computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information' s17(1)(c)(i); and
 - b) producing the document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations s17(2).
7. The decision in relation to each document is detailed in the schedule of documents.

Decision

8. I have decided to:
- a. release the document created in accordance with section 17 [Requests involving use of computers etc.] of the FOI Act in full, and
 - b. release the second document in full.

Material taken into account

9. 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).

Bronwyn Graham

Accredited Decision Maker
Defence People Group
Department of Defence