



Australian Government
Department of Defence

Reference: OCA/OUT/2018/BQ1180352

FOI 219/18/19 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by Mr Josh Morrison under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

COMD FORCOMD DIRECTIVE 114/14, FORCOMD Assistance Dogs and any other document that could supersede this directive.

Personal email addresses, signatures, PMKeyS numbers and mobile telephone numbers contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request and duplicates of documents are excluded from this request.

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 two documents, totalling 113 pages, as matching the scope of this request.

Decision

4. I have decided to:

- a. release 2 documents in full
- b. remove irrelevant material as referred to in the scope of the request in accordance with section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

5. 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
- d. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines)
- e. advice provided to Forces Command, Army Personnel Administration Centre, and Directorate of Army Health.

Section 22 – Edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

6. Subsection 22(1) of the FOI Act requires that where a decision maker denies access to a document they must consider releasing the document with exempt matter deleted, where possible. I have considered disclosing the documents for Item 2, pages 20 to 93 and 102 to 113 to you with deletions, but have decided against this course of action, as the document would be meaningless and of little or no value once the exempt material is removed. The documents have no personal information relating to the applicant.

KC Johnstone

Colonel

Accredited Decision Maker

Army