



DEFENCE FOI 566/20/21 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

1. I refer to the application by Luke Harris under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) for access to:

“Information relating to the passenger manifests for any flights with the tail number A39007 between Thursday 10/06/2021 and Thursday 17/06/2021.”

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.

Decision

3. I have decided to defer the provision of access to documents in accordance with section 21(1)(b) and 21(1)(c) of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

4. In making my decision, I had regard to:
- a. the terms of the request
 - b. relevant provisions in the FOI Act
 - c. the Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

Reasons for decision

Section 21 – Deferment of access

5. The Department of Defence is responsible to the Minister for Defence for compiling the Schedule of Special Purpose Flights. This schedule is tabled in parliament biannually and includes details on all legs flown, passengers carried, hours and financial costing. The Royal Australian Air Force is drafting documents for the Defence Minister’s Office for tabling in parliament.

6. My reason for deferring access to the documents is that premature release would be contrary to the public interest at this time as they are being prepared for presentation to Parliament. While I acknowledge that there is a public interest in disclosure of official information to inform legitimate public debate; there is, in my view, a greater public interest in following established procedures for accessing this information.

PR Davies, CSC
Group Captain
Accredited Decision Maker
Royal Australian Air Force