



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI

FOI/2022/017

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

REQUEST BY: Trav S

DECISION BY: Ms Petra Gartmann
Assistant Secretary
Legal Policy Branch

Trav S

By email: foi+request-8250-1ee21d59@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Trav S

I refer to your email of 6 January 2022, in which you made a request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

Refer to your department's document Ref: B09/1640 'Re: Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal: Assessment of Australian contingent to GE Infrastructure for Indian Ocean'. Mr Peter Rush approved the document 17 November 2009. We ask for a copy of the documents recording the consultations with the Australian Army (referred to at the bottom of page 1).

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make this decision in accordance with arrangements approved by the Department's Secretary under section 23 of the FOI Act.

Decision

The Department has identified three (3) documents in its possession which come within the scope of your request. I have decided to release the relevant information contained within those documents in full. Copies of the documents that are released to you in accordance with my decision are **attached**.

In making this decision, I have had regard to the following material:

- the FOI request;
- the requested documents;
- the FOI Act; and
- the 'Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under s 93A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*'¹ (the **FOI Guidelines**).

¹ FOI Guidelines combined June 2019 published on the web site of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-guidelines/>.

Deletion of exempt or irrelevant material

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that exempt or irrelevant information may be deleted from a copy of a document, and access granted to such an amended copy where it is reasonably practicable to do so, unless it is apparent that the applicant would not wish to have access to such a copy.

I have had regard to the nature of documents and that they cover various subject or topics and that parts of the documents are not relevant to the terms of your request, which was specifically seeking access to information regarding consultations with the Australian Army.

It is the Department's policy to withhold:

- any person's signature
- the names of and contact details of Australian Public Service officers not in the Senior Executive Service (SES)
- the mobile or direct numbers of SES officers; and
- the names and contact details of Ministerial staff at a level below Chief of Staff.

I have therefore deleted irrelevant material in accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act.

I find that it is reasonably practicable to copy the document with the irrelevant information deleted, and that you would wish to be granted access to those document with the deletions.

Processing charges

I have decided not to impose processing charges in respect of your request.

Publication of the documents

Section 11C of the FOI Act requires an agency to publish on its web site information released to an applicant under the FOI Act.

Review rights

Information about rights of review is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/>.

Complaint rights

You may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about the Department's actions in relation to this request. Making a complaint about the way the Department has handled an FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of the Department's decision. Further information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint/>.

Yours sincerely



Ms Petra Gartmann
Assistant Secretary
Legal Policy Branch

18 February 2022