



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Reference: AHQ/OUT/2019/BQ6760314

**FOI 118/19/20 STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

1. I refer to the application by [REDACTED] under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), for access to:

*Documents that contain details advising the Regiment/Unit leading the Exercise Tasman Exchange in April/May 1999 in which I participated in.*

*Documents that detail the reasons why I, [REDACTED] attended/was invited to Exercise Tasman Exchange in April/May 1999.*

*Documents that detail any attendance, medical & fitness information of [REDACTED] while involved in Exercise Tasman Exchange in April/May 1999.*

*Documents that detail exact dates of the Exercise Tasman exchange in April/May 1999.*

*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 one document, totalling 10 pages, as matching the scope of this request.

4. I have added a FOI reference number and page numbers to the document.

**Decision**

5. I have decided to:

- a. release one document 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**

6. 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).

### Reasons for decision

#### Section 22 – Edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

7. Section 22(1)(a) of the FOI Act provides that if an agency or Minister decides to:

- (i) *refuse access to an exempt document; or*
- (ii) *that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access*

and it is reasonably practicable to prepare a copy of the document modified by deletions, the agency or Minister must give the applicant access to the edited copy.

8. The document in scope of this request is the *Exercise Tasman Exchange 99 - General Instruction*. The scope of the applicant's request specifically related to information concerning his participation as an Australian Army soldier in the Exercise. Although the applicant is not named within the document, I consider it provides the information the applicant is seeking.

9. Some information within the document concerns arrangements made for Royal New Zealand Army personnel travelling to Australia as part of the Exercise. I consider this information as outside the scope of this request and, therefore, irrelevant.

10. Considering all of the above, I decided that it was reasonably practicable to remove the irrelevant information and release the document in that form.

**kirk.johnstone** Digitally signed by  
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**KC Johnstone**  
COL  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Army