



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

Reference: BN17532468

**FOI 484/19/20 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 produced since December 1 detailing the (a) impact and/or effect of coronavirus (COVID-19) or possible impact and/or effect on the ADF and (b) possible options or role for the ADF in relation to or in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19). This scope includes briefings prepared for the minister.”*

*Personal email addresses, signatures, desk locations, PMKeyS numbers and mobile telephone numbers contained in documents that fall within the scope of the FOI request are excluded from this request. Defence has only considered final versions of documents.*

**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 14 documents as matching the description of the request.

**Decision**

4. I have decided to:

- a. release 14 documents in full; and
- 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); and
- e. advice provided by various subject matter areas within Defence.

**Further Information**

6. Defence continues to develop documents and capture data related to COVID-19, consequently the provision of finalised documents is limited at this time.

7. Some of the documents matching the scope of this request contained a dissemination limiting marker (DLM). Where documents have been approved for public release, the DLM has been struck through or the document de-classified.

**joanne.groves** Digitally signed by joanne.groves  
Date: 2020.06.12 11:56:24 +10'00'

Mrs Joanne Groves  
Accredited Decision Maker  
Associate Secretary Group