



Defence Reference: FOI 552/19/20

Reference: AHQ/OUT/2020/BQ13631469

FOI 552/19/20 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:

“- A table of statistical data showing the number of Townsville based soldiers located at Lavarack Barracks that were discharged over breaching COVID-19 restrictions in April.

ITEM 1- A breakdown of which units the soldiers that have been discharged were posted to.

ITEM 2 - A total of the number of soldiers that have faced disciplinary action for breaching restrictions

ITEM 3 - A breakdown of the ranks of the discharged members.”

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. One document (one page) was generated under section 17 of the FOI Act matching the description on this FOI request. In accordance with section 17:

- a. A written document was produced containing the information by using a ‘computer or other equipment that is ordinarily available’ to the agency for retrieving or collating stored information (s17(1)(c)(i)).
- b. Producing the written document did not substantially and unreasonably divert resources of the agency from its other operations (s17(2)).

Decision

4. I have decided to release one document in full.

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 by Army Headquarters Incident Management.

Context Statement

6. No serving members posted to Lavarack Barracks, who breached the COVID-19 restrictions during April 2020, have been discharged.

Melanie.Cochbain

Digitally signed by

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Date: 2020.06.22 07:59:36 +10'00'

MP Cochbain

COL

Accredited Decision Maker

Army