



ASA FOI 006/24/25

STATEMENT OF REASONS UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

1. I refer to the request by [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated and received on 11 October 2024 by the Australian Submarine Agency (ASA), for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act):

1. *Documents containing information about the number, classification levels, type of employment (e.g. full time, part time, fractional, casual) functions and position descriptions of Indigenous Liaison Officers or equivalent (e.g. First Nations Liaison Officer or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer), if any, in your agency from 1 January 2014 until the present.*
2. *Documents containing information about the number of staff currently employed in your agency who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.*

Background

2. On 11 October 2024, the applicant submitted a request under the FOI Act to ASA in the following terms:
 1. *Documents containing information about the number, classification levels, type of employment (e.g. full time, part time, fractional, casual) functions and position descriptions of Indigenous Liaison Officers or equivalent (e.g. First Nations Liaison Officer or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Officer), if any, in your agency from 1 January 2014 until the present.*
 2. *Documents containing information about the number of staff currently employed in your agency who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.*
 3. *Documents containing contact information about any Indigenous Liaison Officers currently employed in your agency.*
3. On 21 October 2024, the applicant withdrew item 3 of the request.

FOI decision maker

4. I am the authorised officer pursuant to section 23 of the FOI Act to make a decision on this FOI request.

Documents identified

5. I have identified one document as falling within the scope of the request.

Decision

6. I have decided to partially release one (1) document in accordance with section 22 [access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted] of the FOI Act.

Material taken into account

7. In making my decision, I have had regard to:
 - a. the terms of the request;
 - b. the content of the identified documents in issue;
 - c. relevant provisions of 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. information provided by subject matter experts within ASA.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Section 22 – Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

8. Section 22 of the FOI Act permits an agency to prepare and provide an edited copy of a document where the agency has decided to refuse access to an exempt document or that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access.
9. The document contains exempt material and information that does not relate to the request.
10. I am satisfied that it is reasonably practicable to remove the exempt and irrelevant material and release the documents to you in an edited form.



[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Decision Maker

Assistant Director-General Government and Public Relations

Australian Submarine Agency

11 November 2024