

S 22

From: Ministerial Correspondence <ministerialcorrespondence@ag.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 2:00 PM

To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au)

Subject: Correspondence from the Attorney-General, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP - MS25-000916
[SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

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Dear Commissioner Brereton

Please find attached signed correspondence from the Attorney-General, the Hon Michelle Rowland MP.

The correspondence is provided in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). If you do not have software capable of reading PDF documents, you may download a free version from <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>.

Please do not respond to this email as this mailbox is not monitored. If you wish to provide further correspondence, please use the following details:

Email

attorney@ag.gov.au

Postal Address

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Kind regards

Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Attorney-General's Department



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

If you have received this transmission in error please notify us immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies. If this e-mail or any attachments have been sent to you in error, that error does not constitute waiver of any confidentiality, privilege or copyright in respect of information in the e-mail or attachments.

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE**The Hon Michelle Rowland MP****Attorney-General
Federal Member for Greenway**

Reference: MS25-000916

The Hon Paul Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner
National Anti-Corruption Commission
GPO Box 605
CANBERRA ACT 2601

s 47E(d), s 47F [@nacc.gov.au](mailto: @nacc.gov.au)

Dear Commissioner Brereton

Thank you for your letter on 16 September 2025 notifying me of your declaration of material personal interests for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022*.

I note that, prior to your appointment as Commissioner, you advised the then Attorney-General, the Hon Mark Dreyfus KC MP, that you would retain your unpaid position as Major General, which would enable you to provide ongoing assistance and advice to the Office of the IGADF.

I also note that prior to your appointment in 2023 you disclosed to the Attorney-General's department your intention to continue to provide, on a strictly informal basis, advice and responses to requests for information as the IGADF undertakes ongoing work related to the implementation of the Afghanistan Report, and made an undertaking to delegate to a Deputy Commissioner any matters arising before the commission related to the IGADF.

Your recent declaration of interests, and your earlier declaration of interests provided to the former Attorney-General on 11 August 2023, do not provide details of the nature and extent of the activities you are undertaking at the request of IGADF. No declaration was made of the extension in June 2024 of your compulsory Defence retirement age to August 2026. Nor did the Commission's responses to questions at Senate Estimates in February 2025 adequately address the nature of your ongoing engagement and provision of advice to the IGADF.

Public confidence in the Commission is reliant on the Commission being seen to effectively manage perceived or actual conflicts of interests and providing transparency, as far as appropriate, about these matters. I acknowledge the Commission's ongoing commitment to managing conflict of interests and am aware that the Commission's conflict of interest management processes were amended following the Inspector of the National Anti-Corruption Commission's report on the Commission's decision not to investigate the

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE-

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
PO Box 6022, Parliament House Canberra
Suite 101C, 130 Main Street, Blacktown NSW 2148 | (02) 9671 4780

OFFICIAL: SENSITIVE

Robodebt referrals. I am also aware that you do not participate in decisions of the Commission in relation to the IGADF. While the management of potential conflicts of interest is a matter for yourself and the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission under the PGPA Act, I would appreciate the following:

- consideration of whether an updated declaration of interests should be provided
- confirmation of steps taken by yourself and the Commission to manage any actual or perceived conflict of interest arising from your involvement with the IGADF, including how the CEO is kept informed, and
- steps taken to ensure this work does not affect your ability to fulfil your duties as Commissioner.

In your declaration, you note that if a matter comes before the Commission affecting the interests of an individual or entity with which you have an affiliation, you will consider if an actual or perceived conflict arises and, if necessary, take steps to mitigate it. I suggest it would be preferable for you to declare all relevant affiliations and interactions to the CEO. If an actual conflict of interest arises it should always be mitigated through non-participation in decision-making.

I would appreciate your timely advice on the above matters given the public interest in the management of these issues.

Yours sincerely



Michelle Rowland MP

10 / 10 / 2025



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Ref: 25#31379

22 October 2025

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
attorney@ag.gov.au

Dear Attorney,

Correspondence regarding conflicts of interest

I am writing in response to your letter of 10 October 2025, seeking information regarding the handling of conflicts of interest (COI) relating to the assistance I have provided to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). Specifically, you requested advice on:

- whether an updated declaration of interests should be provided,
- the steps taken by myself and the Commission to manage any actual or perceived COI arising from my involvement with the IGADF, including how the CEO is kept informed, and
- the steps taken to ensure this work does not affect my ability to fulfil my duties as Commissioner.

I understand your raising these matters and trust the below will assist in addressing them.

Background

My association with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as a Defence Reservist for over 45 years, and my work as an Assistant IGADF on the Afghanistan Inquiry, was a matter of public record and well-known before my appointment as Commissioner. My work on the Afghanistan Inquiry Report is mentioned on the Commission's website, as is my work in the ADF Reserves [Leadership | National Anti-Corruption Commission \(NACC\)](#).

This inevitably meant that if appointed I would have relationships with some individuals and units in the ADF which could potentially involve COI if those individuals or units became involved in a NACC matter. This would have remained the case had I terminated any association with the ADF from the time of my appointment as Commissioner: potential conflicts would still have arisen from those past associations.

As noted in your letter to me, prior to my appointment as the National Anti-Corruption Commissioner (the Commissioner), I informed your predecessor of, and he (in correspondence dated 30 March 2023) acknowledged, my intention to retain my commission in the ADF Reserves (in which since 2014 I have been an inactive Reservist), and to continue, on an informal basis, to provide advice to and respond to requests for information from the Office of the IGADF in relation to ongoing work related to the implementation of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report. Having undertaken the Afghanistan Inquiry, as you will appreciate, I have unique knowledge of the matter, which cannot be sourced elsewhere. For context, I note that the Afghanistan Inquiry was conducted over a period of four years, involved over 20,000 documents and 25,000 images, with 423 people being interviewed as witnesses and much of this is not publicly available. While the Afghanistan Inquiry is complete, Defence has undertaken extensive work in implementing the Afghanistan Inquiry recommendations and separately, the Office of the Special Investigator continues their work in relation to possible criminal prosecutions. This has, since completion of the Inquiry in 2020, required consultation with me from time to time, and when my appointment as Commissioner was under consideration I anticipated it would continue to do so. Your predecessor's letter of 30 March 2023 expressly acknowledged the importance of the implementation work flowing from the Afghanistan Inquiry Report. He also noted that it was my intention, were a NACC matter potentially to affect IGADF in a way that might reasonably be perceived to create a conflict, to address the matter by delegating it to a Deputy Commissioner.

My engagement with the IGADF in a Reserve capacity since 1 July 2023 has been entirely in accordance with the arrangements set out in your predecessor's letter of 30 March 2023. On about a dozen occasions over the last 27 months I have, on an informal, voluntary and unremunerated basis, responded to requests for advice and information relevant to the implementation of the Afghanistan Inquiry Report. While I do not have a precise record,

those instances would not on average have involved more than about an hour of my time each. I have not undertaken any new or ongoing formal work for the IGADF as a Reservist. I have recused myself from two NACC matters in which the interests of the IGADF were or are potentially involved, had no involvement in decision-making, and delegated the matter to a Deputy Commissioner. A third matter was dealt with at a lower level of the Commission without coming to my attention. I have also recused myself from a further matter which did not involve the IGADF but in which a person who had previously been known to me as an IGADF official but was now at another agency was involved.

(I have also had engagements with the IGADF in my capacity as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, as I have with diverse other Commonwealth agencies in the performance of the Commission's engagement and education functions. In particular, in May last year I addressed the IGADF Legal Officer's training day on "Current and emergent national and international anti-corruption and integrity issues", and in July this year I participated, with other Commonwealth and State judicial officers, in a Judicial Roundtable to inform IGADF's inquiry into "Weaponisation of the Military Justice System".)

On 11 August 2023, I provided your predecessor details of matters relevant to identified possible COI as required by section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (NACC Act) (Enclosure 1). My declaration included (emphasis added):

I also have an affiliation with some units or agencies (in particular, the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment, of which I remain (honorary) Colonel Commandant; the Sydney University Regiment (of which I remain a member of the Regimental Council); and the *Inspector-General of the ADF*). As I declared at a meeting of the Statutory Officers of the Commission on 3 July 2023, should a matter potentially affecting the interests of an individual with whom I have had or have a close association, or a unit or agency with which I have an affiliation, come before the Commission, I would recuse myself from decision-making in respect of that matter, and allocate the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

On 14 October 2024, I provided the then Attorney-General a further declaration (Enclosure 2). This again referred in the same terms to my affiliation with the IGADF and the steps I would take should a referral relating to the IGADF come before the Commission.

On 16 September 2025, I provided you a further declaration (Enclosure 3). This again refers to my affiliation with the IGADF, and the steps I would take should such a referral come before the Commission, in the following terms (emphasis added):

I also have an affiliation with some units or agencies (in particular, the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment, of which I remain (honorary) Colonel Commandant; the Sydney University Regiment (of which I remain a member of the Regimental Council); *and the Inspector-General of the ADF*). Should a matter potentially affecting the interests of an individual with whom I have had or have a close association, or a unit or agency with which I have an affiliation, come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it, including if appropriate not being the decision-maker and allocating the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

The Commission's procedures, referred to in that passage, include that at each meeting of the NACC Senior Assessment Panel (NSAP), which includes all the Deputy Commissioners and at which the CEO is an observer, members including me disclose any relevant interests or relationships, and the Chair (which if the disclosure is made by me, is passed for that purpose to a Deputy Commissioner) then rules whether it amounts to a relevant conflict.

The slightly different description of my intended approach should the interests of a relevant individual or unit be involved in a NACC matter was adopted in my 16 September 2025 declaration for consistency with the approach later described in relation to other senior officials and Parliamentarians. However, I can confirm that in every matter in which the interests of the IGADF have been involved, I have in any event delegated the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, even when I have been of the view that a conflict does not in fact arise.

Your correspondence refers to a lack of detail in my declarations regarding my involvement with the IGADF. What is captured in all my declarations is that I have an affiliation with the IGADF which would necessarily mean I would consider the existence of an actual or perceived conflict and if so, recuse myself from any decision making in relation to an IGADF referral to the Commission. What was material was the existence of a relationship, and how it would be managed. Having disclosed the relationship with IGADF and the way in which any conflict would be managed, I did not consider its precise nature to be material. However, I am happy to add, "to whom I continue, on an informal basis, to provide advice and respond to requests for information relating to the Afghanistan Inquiry from time to time, in accordance with the arrangements described in the then Attorney-General's letter to me of 30 March 2023".

The age extensions provided by Defence were not considered as part of the declaration process, being an administrative step undertaken by Defence. The extensions (the first of which predated my appointment as Commissioner) did not facilitate any remuneration or

other benefits. The extensions were initiated by the IGADF, to enable me to continue to access Inquiry records, some of which contain classified material, and to communicate about them, if required. It has been necessary for me to be an (inactive) Reservist in order to be able to effectively provide the ongoing informal assistance to the IGADF that was contemplated in your predecessor's correspondence of 30 March 2023. That does not mean that it thereby became part of my duties as a Major General to do so.

Your letter also refers to the Commission's responses to questions at Senate Estimates in February 2025. Following the February 2025 Estimates, the Commission received a question on notice (QoN) from Senator Shoebridge dated 04 March 2025 which asked:

1. What steps have been taken in the NACC to deal specifically with conflicts of interest that may arise in the context of matters relating to Defence?
2. I am advised the Commissioner provided the Attorney General with a declaration of conflict of interest on 11 August 2023 about how he would deal with conflicts that may arise in his role as Commissioner resulting from him continuing his role in the defence area, can you please provide a copy of this document, and please detail its contents?

The Commission's response to that QoN included a copy of my 11 August 2023 declaration, including the paragraph extracted above which referred to my affiliation with the IGADF.

The Commission subsequently received QoNs from Senator Shoebridge on 27 March 2025, relating to my Reserve service, and the responses were tabled on 15 July 2025. The QoNs were answered, with additional information to assist in understanding the answers. The Commission's responses did not refer to my assistance to the IGADF. That is because the questions asked at Senate Estimates and in the QoNs related to my role as a Major General in the ADF. Specifically, the questions related to my ADF Commission, my duties as a Major General, referrals received by the Commission relating to Defence, Reserve activities in uniform, whether I had an age extension, access to Defence Messes and facilities, oath of service, and the taking of leave for Defence activities. My informal assistance to the IGADF is not part of my duties as a Major General, though it is facilitated by my status as a Reservist. (As described by the Inspector-General of the ADF, Mr James Gaynor CSC, at Senate Estimates on 9 October 2025, I do not work for, but provide help to, his Office). The Commission's answers at Senate Estimates and in response to the QoNs were appropriate in the context of the questions asked.

Whether there is a requirement for an updated declaration of interests

In my view, all declarations made by me have complied with the requirements of section 29 of the PGPA Act and section 247 of the NACC Act. However, in light of the concerns you have mentioned, I am providing you an updated declaration which includes further detail in relation to my assistance to the IGADF as mentioned above, and (as elaborated below) adopts a new approach as to the steps I would take if a matter relating to Defence, the ADF or IGADF were to come before the Commission.

Steps to manage actual or perceived COI

You have sought confirmation of the steps taken by myself and the Commission to manage any actual or perceived COI arising from my involvement with the IGADF, including how the CEO is kept informed.

General management of Defence associations

To date, I have managed potential conflicts arising from my connection with Defence in accordance with the Commission's policies, the *NSAP Terms of Reference* and my declarations.

Specifically, to avoid any perception of a conflict, I have not and do not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

As a result of my service in the ADF Reserves and ongoing affiliation with some units or agencies, many members of the ADF and the Department of Defence are known to me. I have previously stated (and I remain of the view) that I do not consider that this generally precludes me from involvement in matters before the Commission concerning Defence, but such matters are dealt with on a case-by-case basis and always involve a consideration of whether a prior association gives rise to an actual or perceived COI.

Referrals that have progressed through the Commission's Triage and Assessments processes (which involve an initial assessment of referrals) are considered by me, Deputy Commissioners and other senior Commission staff at NSAP. At these meetings, COI are declared and recorded. All members, including me, are required to disclose any past or present relationship with any individual, organisation, or agency involved (in accordance with the *NSAP Terms of Reference*, endorsed on 21 November 2024). Should a matter potentially affecting the interests of an individual with whom I have had or have a close association, or a unit or agency with which I have an affiliation, come before the Commission, I disclose the details to the NSAP members, and a Deputy Commissioner assesses and makes a decision on whether it gives rise to an actual or perceived COI. As already mentioned, in the case of the

IGADF, I take the view that any matter in which the interests of the IGADF are involved gives rise to a perceived conflict and I do not participate.

The Commission also has in place specific procedures for any referrals which involve me or any other Statutory Officeholder. These are detailed in the Commission's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) – *Management of Corruption Issues Referrals* - and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Inspector. Both these documents require that any matter which involves myself, a Deputy Commissioner or the CEO, is to be isolated from the relevant individual and escalated for referral to the Inspector as appropriate.

Recusals to date and IGADF referrals

Over the period 1 July 2023 to 4 September 2025, I have recused myself from nine referrals related to Defence. Mostly, these arose from professional relationships which existed before 1 July 2023.

To date, the Commission has received three referrals relating to the IGADF (as the 'main agency' which the referral is about). Two of the nine Defence referrals I recused myself from related to the IGADF. The third referral concerning the IGADF received by the Commission was closed at the triage stage without coming to my notice, and I had no involvement in it.

Informing the CEO

Although the CEO's role as accountable authority does not extend to matters relating to assessment and investigation of corruption referrals, the CEO is an observer at NSAP meetings where COI which arise in relation to specific referrals are addressed, and so is aware of all the disclosures I have made at NSAP, and all the Defence referrals from which I have recused myself.

The CEO is also aware of the content of all my declarations of interest which have been provided to you and your predecessor. As I have mentioned, they are provided to the CEO and the Deputy Commissioners when prepared. The CEO will be provided a copy of my enclosed updated declaration and will continue to be informed of all relevant affiliations.

Public confidence

I acknowledge that public confidence in the Commission relies in part on the Commission being seen to effectively manage conflicts of interest, and to operate with as much transparency as possible, while maintaining confidentiality in our operations.

As stated above, my longstanding association with Defence and service as a Defence Reservist was very well known prior to my appointment as Commissioner. Indeed, I

understand it was my conduct, as an Assistant IGADF, of a highly sensitive, complex, controversial and in some quarters unpopular investigation into allegations of misconduct in the ADF, that made me a candidate for appointment as Commissioner. That longstanding connection meant that regardless of whether I maintained an ongoing association, there would be a necessity to manage potential conflicts arising from past relationships.

A past and present association with an organisation is entirely compatible with a commitment to integrity in that organisation. It is often of significant assistance if investigations of organisations are conducted by those with an understanding of the organisation and how it works. That is a reason why most agencies have internal professional standards and integrity functions. It is also a reason why the NACC Act enables us to refer matters back to agencies for investigation by the agency. This only involves a conflict of interest if the investigator has some personal interest in the outcome, or a relationship with a person involved. I have described above how those situations are currently managed – as noted in your predecessor's letter of 30 March 2023, and repeated in my subsequent declarations, should a NACC matter potentially affect any ADF unit or individual with whom I am or have been associated in a way that might reasonably be perceived to create a conflict, I would delegate it to a Deputy Commissioner.

Notwithstanding this, and despite the fact that it remains my view that my association with Defence should not generally preclude me from participation in matters affecting Defence, unless an individual or unit with whom I have or have had a close association is involved (any more than other NACC staff members are precluded from participating in matters affecting agencies with which they have previously been associated, unless an individual with whom they have or have had a close association is involved), the attention my Defence service and connections is now attracting from some quarters has become such a distraction from progressing the work of the Commission that I have decided that, in future, I will not participate in any Defence referrals. Accordingly, in relation to any future matter potentially affecting any Defence or ADF individual or unit that comes before the Commission, I propose to allocate it to a Deputy Commissioner and not participate, regardless of whether it might reasonably be perceived to involve a conflict. While I regard this as unnecessary from the perspective of properly managing COI, and undesirable in that it will deprive the Commission of my special understanding of Defence matters, I have come to the view that on balance, it is preferable, if it will enable us to get on with our business without this as a distraction. I have included reference to this in my updated declaration.

Assistance to IGADF does not affect my role as Commissioner

Information about the assistance I have provided to the IGADF was provided in their appearance at Senate Estimates on 9 October 2025. My assistance to the IGADF is infrequent and, while important to the IGADF, has involved a minimal amount of my time. As

summarised above, I have, on an informal basis, responded to occasional requests for advice and information about the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report, of which I have unique knowledge. These requests have always been initiated by the IGADF, have been infrequent, and are always de-prioritised to my duties as Commissioner. My provision of this assistance to the IGADF has had no impact on the performance of my functions as Commissioner, although, as also given in evidence by the Inspector-General at Senate Estimates on 9 October 2025, it is of considerable importance to the Office of the IGADF.

Although I have combined my civilian career with service in the ADF Reserves for the whole of my adult life, since 1 June 2023 (when I commenced as Commissioner-designate) the role of Commissioner has had my complete focus. My ongoing, very modest informal assistance to the IGADF is wholly consistent with my role as Commissioner. The IGADF is a Commonwealth integrity agency (section 15(p) of the NACC Act). In supporting the implementation of the Afghanistan Inquiry report, and through it the prevention of the recurrence of the type of conduct uncovered by that Inquiry, it is complementary to the work of the Commission in ensuring public officials act with integrity.

I would be very happy to discuss these matters further with you, if you wish. I can be contacted directly on mobile s 47F, or by email at s 47E(d), s 47F [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47F@nacc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

Enclosures:

1. Declaration of material personal interests, of 11 August 2023
2. Declaration of material personal interests, of 14 October 2024
3. Declaration of material personal interests, of 16 September 2025
4. Declaration of material personal interests, of 22 October 2025

47C(1)(a)

FOI 26/37

Document 3 Page 1 of 2

47C(1)(a)

s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2025 2:01 PM
To: Philip Reed
Cc: **s 22**
Subject: FW: Defence FOI 1244/24/25 - FOI Act Third Party Consultation - Personal information [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]
Attachments: Defence FOI 1244_24_25-Consultation.pdf; C - FS - Consultation Under section 27A (Personal Information).pdf

Hi Philip and **s 22**

Please see the email from **s 22** to Defence below in which he proposes a couple of corrections and additional redactions, which we should incorporate.

I didn't receive a final copy from Defence so don't know exactly what they released, but we should apply all marked up redactions and the additional ones suggested by **s 22**

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

s 47E(d), s 47F

_____@nacc.gov.au

s 22 _____@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: **s 22** _____@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 4 August 2025 11:01 AM

To: Paul Brereton **s 47F, s 47E(d)** _____@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: **s 22** _____@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22** _____@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: Defence s 22 - FOI Act Third Party Consultation - Personal information [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive Personal-Privacy

Hello Commissioner

Draft email to Defence FOI team for your review.

I presume that you didn't have any concerns about Defence's approach to the line entry 'Are duties compatible with service need and medical restrictions?' (page 4 of the June 2024 form and page 8 of the July 2022 form), so I have not addressed this.

Thanks

s 22

s 22

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

s 22

[Redacted] [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

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We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: FOI Case Management <foi.casemanagement@defence.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 31 July 2025 10:07 PM

To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au)

Subject: **s 22** - FOI Act Third Party Consultation - Personal information [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive, ACCESS=Personal-Privacy]

You don't often get email from foi.casemanagement@defence.gov.au. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Major General Brereton

The Department of Defence has received a request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) which seeks access to the following documents:

According to a NACC response to Question on Notice, Major General Brereton was granted an age extension approval on 2 August 2022 by CDF. I am seeking the AE687 CRA form and unit supported capability justification in relation to that approval. I am not seeking any personal or medical information. Also according to a NACC response to Question on Notice, Major General Brereton was granted an age extension on 25 June 24 by CA. I am seeking the Commanding Officer justification Minute, DCMA approval and AE687 for this approval. I am not seeking any personal or medical information.

Timeframe: from 01/07/2022 - 26/06/2024

The documents relevant to the scope of the FOI request are attached.

Consultation - Personal

Under the FOI Act, where an Australian Government agency receives a request for access to documents containing another person's personal information, and the agency believes that the other person may object to the release of the documents, the agency is required to consult that person before making a decision to grant access. As such, we are contacting you as the Decision maker considers that you may object to the release of the information contained within the documents.

Under section 27A of the FOI Act you are invited to comment on the release of your personal information, which means information that could be used to identify you and says something about you. The attached fact sheet provides more information about this consultation.

Next Steps

Please review the attached documents with proposed redactions, and let us know if any of the material in the documents would reveal information about you that would impact your personal privacy. If you wish to object to the release of the documents, please let us know, including the reasons why you object, as this will assist the Decision maker in making their decision.

In deciding whether to release the documents, we will consider:

- whether the information is well known
- whether the information about you is, or was known to be, associated with the matters dealt with in the document
- whether the information is available from publicly accessible sources.

If you wish to object to the release of the documents, please let us know, including the reasons why you object, as this will assist the Decision maker in making their decision. Please note that it is not sufficient to simply assert that the release of the documents would reveal your personal information. While your comments will be given careful consideration, the final decision about whether to release the documents rests with the Decision maker. Please return your response to FOI.CaseManagement@defence.gov.au.

Review Rights

If the Decision maker decides not to accept your objections, you will be provided with rights for a review of the decision. The documents will not be provided to the applicant until the review process has been finalised, or you indicate that you do not wish to exercise your rights of review. If your objections are accepted by the Decision maker, we will not contact you further.

Timeframe

To assist the Department to meet its obligations under the FOI Act, please provide your response by **COB Wednesday 6 August 2025**. If you do not reply by this time, or you have not been granted an extension of time to provide your response, the Decision maker will make a decision in the absence of your advice.

If you have any queries about this consultation or the FOI process please contact FOI.CaseManagement@defence.gov.au. A copy of the FOI Act can be found [online](#).

Thank you and regards

s 22

Freedom of Information

Media and Information Disclosure Branch
Ministerial & Executive Coordination and Communication Division
Department of Defence

s 22

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IMPORTANT: This email remains the property of the Department of Defence. Unauthorised communication and dealing with the information in the email may be a serious criminal offence. If you have received this email in error, you are requested to contact the sender and delete the email immediately.

s 22



Australian Government
Department of Defence

AE 687
Revised 14 Sep 21

Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA)

Instructions

The information collected by the completion of this form will be used for the purposes of Career Management - Army, to determine and assist in career management decisions. For full details on how this information may be used and disclosed refer to Military Personnel Policy Manual (MILPERSMAN) privacy statement ([MILPERSMAN Part 1, Chapter 4](#)). Specific details about the policy and processes can be found in [Defence Regulations 2016](#).

Fields marked with * are mandatory, and must be completed before signing or submission.

CMA reference (Objective ID) *

Request details

Is this request for an extension to, or retention of former, CRA? *

Extension Retention

Requested CRA date *

27 Aug 26

Member details

Career management directorate: *

DOCM-A DROCM-A DSCM-A DRSCM-A DCWM-A

Employee ID * Rank * Family name * Given name(s) *

SERCAT * Corps * Unit * Date of birth *

Current age Current CRA date *

Unit Admin check*

Current medical class*

Date of last medical * Medical expiry date *

Is member currently on a CRA extension:* Yes No

How many CRA extensions have been approved *

Member is 67 years or over, has justifying Minute been attached? * Yes No N/A

Unit justification*

Is the extension required to satisfy essential staffing requirements? * Yes No

Does the member have a critical skill that requires Army retention? * Yes No

Provide explanation of critical skill.*

MAJGEN Brereton's unique and extensive experience assisting the IGADF conduct a complex inquiry means it is essential for MAJGEN Brereton's CRA to be extend beyond 2024.

Has the ForceNet been engaged to identify another suitable member to fill this role? * Yes No



What are the impacts or consequences to the project or task if the CRA extension isn't approved?*

A non-approval may have a significant impact in the Office of the IGADF's ability to meet the the IGADF's legislative requirements, and would have an impact on the Office of the IGADF's ability to provide high-quality outcomes to Ministers, Defence and external Government agencies.

What is the transition plan for the member?*

There is presently no expectation that a further CRA extension request will be required beyond 2026.

Provide any other information or extenuating circumstances that should be considered when processing this application*

MAJGEN Brereton's CRA extension enables him to continue assisting the IGADF on matters that rely on his qualifications, experience and expertise.

Unit endorsement

Recommended?* Yes No

Email address *

s 22

Rank * Appointment * Signature *

MR Assistant Secretary OIGADF s 47F s 22

2024.06.19 15:09:17 +10'00'

CMA staff check

CMA receipt date*

21 Jun 24

Has the above members AIRN and medical details changed? *

s 47E(1), s 47F

Is member currently on a CRA extension *

Yes No

Remarks

s 47F

This is the mbr's second Extension request.



CMA/Career Advisor endorsement

Is extension required to satisfy essential staffing requirements? * Yes No

Are duties compatible with service need and medical restrictions? * Yes No

Is the unit aware of medical / employment restriction and willing to manage? * s 47F [redacted] [redacted]

Performance of member in last annual report (satisfactory or better) * s 47F [redacted] [redacted]

Special issues to be considered * s 47F [redacted]

Discipline / criminal issues * s 47F [redacted]

Administrative issues * s 47F [redacted]

Recommended? * Yes No

Recommended CRA date *
27 Aug 26

Provide the posting plan and other relevant information. *
Supported to continue ongoing work

Rank * Appointment *
LTCOL SOM-A

Signature * Digitally signed by
s 47F s 22
Date: 2024.06.24 09:16:14 +10'00'

Delegate *

Delegate decision: *

Approved Not approved

I hereby extend the prescribed age of retirement of the member specified for a period ending the day before the expiration date specified (New CR date) in accordance with [Defence Regulation 2016 Part 3, Division 5, Section 23\(2\)\(b\)](#).

s 47F [redacted]

Rank * Appointment *
LTGEN Chief of Army

Signature *
s 47F [redacted]



Members Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the new Compulsory Retirement Age listed above, as approved by the Delegate.*

Signature *





Australian Government
Department of Defence

AE 687
Revised 14 Sep 21

Compulsory Retirement Age (CRA)

Instructions

The information collected by the completion of this form will be used for the purposes of Career Management - Army, to determine and assist in career management decisions. For full details on how this information may be used and disclosed refer to Military Personnel Policy Manual (MILPERSMAN) privacy statement ([MILPERSMAN Part 1, Chapter 4](#)). Specific details about the policy and processes can be found in [Defence Regulations 2016](#).

Fields marked with * are mandatory, and must be completed before signing or submission.

CMA reference (Objective ID) *

CMA use only

Request details

Is this request for an extension to, or retention of former, CRA? *

Extension Retention

Requested CRA date *

26 Aug 24

Member details

Career management directorate: *

DOCM-A DROCM-A DSCM-A DRSCM-A DCWM-A

Employee ID * Rank * Family name * Given name(s) *

s 47F MAJGEN Brereton s 47F

SERCAT * Corps * Unit * Date of birth *

s 47F

Current age Current CRA date *

s 47F

Unit Admin check*

AIRN Compliant*

s 47F

Current medical class*

s 47F

Date of last medical * Medical expiry date *

s 47F

Is member currently on a CRA extension:*

Yes No

Member is 67 years or over, has justifying Minute been attached? *

s 47F

Unit justification*

Is the extension required to satisfy essential staffing requirements?*

Yes No

Does the member have a critical skill that requires Army retention?*

Yes No

Provide explanation of critical skill.*

MAJGEN Brereton's unique and extensive experience assisting the IGADF conduct a complex inquiry means it is essential for MAJGEN Brereton to be retained beyond CRA.

Has the Career Advisor been engaged to identify another suitable member to fill this role?*

Yes No



What are the impacts or consequences to the unit if the CRA extension isn't approved?*

A non-approval may have a significant impact in the Office of the IGADF's ability to meet the the IGADF's legislative requirements, and would have an impact on the Office of the IGADF's ability to provide high-quality outcomes to Ministers, Defence and external Government agencies.

What is the transition plan for the member?*

There is presently no expectation that a further CRA extension request will be required.

Provide any other information or extenuating circumstances that should be considered when processing this application*

MAJGEN Brereton's appointment as an Assistant IGADF means he has been made available to the IGADF by the CDF pursuant to s110O of the Defence Act 1903.

Unit endorsement

Recommended?* Yes No

Email address *

s 22

Rank *

CDRE

Appointment *

Deputy IGADF

Signature *

s 47F

Digitally signed by

s 22

Date: 2022.07.12 14:10:36 +10'00'

CMA staff check

CMA receipt date*

13 Jul 22

Has the above members AIRN and medical details changed? *

s 47F

Is member currently on a CRA extension *

Yes No

Remarks

s 22



OFFICIAL

CMA/Career Advisor endorsement

Is extension required to satisfy essential staffing requirements? * Yes No

Are duties compatible with service need and medical restrictions? * Yes No

Is the unit aware of medical / employment restriction and willing to manage? *

Performance of member in last annual report (satisfactory or better) *

Special issues to be considered *

Discipline / criminal issues *

Administrative issues *

Does requested CRA extension align with posting tenure? * Yes No

Planned out date *

26 Aug 24

S 47F

Recommended? * Yes No

Recommended CRA date *

27 Aug 24

Provide the posting plan and other relevant information. *

MAJGEN Brereton is being engaged under Section 110O(1) of the Defence Act 1903. Reserve Service Days are not being utilised under Section 26 of the Defence Act 1903 and there is no associated posting for this task. IGADF are to endeavour to find a suitable replacement or engage MAJGEN Brereton as a consultant under 110O(2) from Aug 2024.

Rank *

BRIG

Appointment *

DGCM-A

Signature *

S 47F

Delegate

Delegate decision: *

Approved Not approved

I hereby extend the prescribed age of retirement of the member specified for a period ending the day before the expiration date specified (New CR date) in accordance with [Defence Regulation 2016 Part 3, Division 5, Section 23\(2\)\(b\)](#).

Remarks *

Rank *

GEN

Appointment *

CDF

Signature *

S 47F



OFFICIAL

Members Acknowledgement

I acknowledge the new Compulsory Retirement Age listed above, as approved by the Delegate.*

Signature *



s 22



Third party consultation

Client fact sheet

Consultation under section 27A (personal information) of the FOI Act

This fact sheet provides general guidance about consultation to individuals when their personal information appears in documents that have been requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

Frequently asked questions

What is the purpose of the FOI Act?

The FOI Act provides the public with a general right of access to documents held by Australian government agencies (with certain exceptions).

Why am I being consulted?

You are being invited to advise whether you object to the release of your personal information in the enclosed documents, and if so, to provide reasons why you believe the material should be considered exempt under section 47F [public interest conditional exemptions – personal privacy] of the FOI Act.

If the material intended for release is personal information of someone other than the applicant, and that person (third party) might reasonably object to the material being released under FOI, the decision maker will direct FOI Directorate to consult the third party.

When Defence receives a request for access to documents under FOI, an FOI decision maker considers the documents with regard to relevant sections of the FOI Act, and forms a view as to what material may be released.

What does exemption under section 47F mean?

According to section 47F of the FOI Act, material is exempt (may not be released) if it:

- is personal information; and
- would be unreasonable to release; and
- is not in the public interest to release

For material to be exempt under section 47F of the FOI Act, the decision maker must balance whether release of the material is in favour of or against the public interest.

What is public release?

The purpose of the FOI Act is to release information to the public. This means when a document is released to a person, it is considered to be a release to the world at large (although other legal restrictions, such as copyright, will still apply).

Who is the applicant?

While the purpose of consultation is to afford you the right to protect your personal information, the applicant also has a right to privacy. When third parties are consulted, Defence will almost always ask the applicant whether they consent to being identified as the applicant for the purposes of consultation. We will tell you who the applicant is if they consent to being identified.

What is personal information?

The term 'personal information' is defined in the FOI Act to mean:

information or an opinion about an individual whose identity is apparent, or can reasonably be ascertained, from the information or opinion.

Personal information:

- identifies, or could identify, a person or a deceased person
- says something about the person
- may be an opinion
- may form part of a database
- may be true or untrue
- relates to a natural person (not a corporation or trust).

This means that 'personal information' is not just your name, it must identify you. It can include things that you say, things said about you, references to events that you participated in, or any other information related to you, provided that you can be identified.

What does 'unreasonable to release' mean?

A decision maker may take into account a broad range of factors in considering whether personal information is unreasonable to release. Generally, information that is already widely known would not be unreasonable to release. Where public servants' personal information is included in a document because of their usual duties of responsibilities, it would not be unreasonable to disclose unless special circumstances existed. This is because the information would reveal only that the public servant was performing their public duties.

Information about an individual's personal characteristics, emotional state, medical conditions, reasons for taking personal leave, information about management of their performance, or unproven allegations of misconduct would be examples of personal information commonly considered unreasonable to release.

Do I have to respond in a particular form?

No. You are not required to reply in any particular way. If you object to the release of some or all of your personal information, you should clearly explain why you object. If possible, you should identify which material you consider is exempt and which material you would be happy to see released, if any. This will assist to highlight the parts of the document which you think should be protected.

Is this what the document will look like when it is released?

Not necessarily. The information you have been provided, may only be a part of a larger document. There may be additional material you are not being consulted over, because it does not contain your personal information.

Should I comment on the release of anyone else's personal information?

No. Defence will consult all third parties who might reasonably wish to object to the release of their personal information in the documents. You should focus on concerns you may have about your own personal information in the documents.

Should I discuss this consultation with my lawyer, my supervisor/chain of command or other individuals?

You are being consulted in your personal capacity as a private citizen, and as such you have no obligation to speak with anyone else in relation to the release of the material. Your supervisor or chain of command cannot direct you to respond in a particular way.

If you wish to speak to a trusted friend or seek professional advice you are entitled to do so. You should also feel free to contact the FOI Directorate, which has a role in providing impartial advice relating to the FOI Act to applicants, third parties and the Department.

What if I raise no objections to the release of my personal information?

The decision maker will take this into account, along with any other relevant factors, when deciding whether further material should be considered exempt in the documents.

What happens if I object to the release of my personal information?

The decision maker will consider your objections but is not obliged to agree to them. The decision maker will also take into account the context of the information, the provisions of the FOI Act, Information Commissioner Guidelines and precedent.

If the decision maker does not agree with all your objections, you will have the opportunity to request a review of the decision (appeal) before the contested documents are released to the applicant.

What happens if I don't respond?

If you do not respond within the specified timeframe, the decision maker will be obliged to make a decision on the release of the information in the absence of your input.

What if I need more time?

If you need more time, please contact the FOI Directorate to discuss a possible extension. We will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis, noting that Defence needs to comply with strict, statutory timeframes for the completion of FOI requests.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or issues please contact foi@defence.gov.au.

s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 10:01 AM
To: **s 22**; Kylie Kilgour; Rebekah O'Meagher; Philip Reed
Cc: Nicole Rose
Subject: RE: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: Letter of congratulations - Commissioner.PDF

Hi **s 22** and all,

Attached please find letter from former AG at the time of my appointment.

Everything I have done is entirely in accordance with the last two substantive paras of that letter.

Since 1 July 2023 I have had no formal or official position with IGADF. I have continued to respond, on an informal basis, to occasional requests for advice and information arising out of the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report. I have never sought, received nor expected any compensation in any form for doing so. I have not performed any new or ongoing formal work for IGADF.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

s 47F, s 47E(d)

[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:plg.brereton@nacc.gov.au)

EA **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:ea.s22@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au

s 22

S 22

From: S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 9:06 AM
 To: S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 4/r [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

S 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 8:28 AM
 To: Kylie Kilgour S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 4/r [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: S 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Kylie

I sourced data from Evaluations yesterday regarding IGADF referrals to assist with the response to the Inspector.

Emails are attached. For ease of reference, I set out the referrals below and my recommendations.

Happy to arrange a call to discuss this if easier. I will provide some edits to the draft media release shortly and circulate.

Thanks
S 22 [redacted]

Referrals in which IGADF was main agency

1. CASEs 22 [redacted] went to NSAP on 17 April 2025 – s 22 [redacted]
[redacted] Cmr recused himself – DC Kilgour was DM.
2. CASEs 22 [redacted] went to NSAP on 5 June 2025 s 22 [redacted]
[redacted] Cmr made declaration and said he would not be part of deliberation of the matter should this occur (note - nothing in the minutes to indicate there was any discussion).
3. CASEs 22 s 22 [redacted] - 11C(1)(a)/IGADF - received 02/11/2024): subject of Inspector correspondence – s 22 [redacted]

47C(1)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

Referrals in which IGADF is linked to cases as ‘other persons involved’

4. CASEs 47E(d) [redacted] – sent to NSAP on 6 March 2025 for noting – s 22 [redacted]
 - o s 22 [redacted]
 - o Cmr recused himself from this matter. It is one of the 6 previously identified.

5. s 22 [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]

[redacted]

 - [redacted]

47C(1)(a) [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 8:58 PM
To: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Philip Reed [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Subject: Re: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

47C(1)(a)


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From: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:44:41 PM
To: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Philip Reed [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Subject: Re: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Rebekah

47C(1)(a)




Happy to discuss in the morning.
 Thanks
[s 22](#)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 6:28 pm
To: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Philip Reed [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Subject: RE: Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thanks s 22 . 47C(1)(a)

From: s 22 <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 5:33 PM**To:** Paul Brereton <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

<[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>**Subject:** Commissioner - IGADF - Assistant Secretary role / consultation [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi all

I contacted IGADF to try to source a written record of the Commissioner's resignation as Assistant Secretary.

I spoke with s 22 – Assistant Secretary at IGADF, who provided the following information:

1. There is nothing in writing (email/letter) evidencing the Cmr's resignation as Assistant Inspector General of the ADF.
2. There was a discussion between Cmr Brereton and Inspector-General James Gaynor in May 2023 before Cmr took up his position at the NACC. They discussed that it would not be appropriate for Cmr Brereton to continue as Assistant Inspector General. They agreed, and during that discussion Cmr Brereton verbally resigned his appointment as Assistant Inspector General. There is otherwise no written resignation letter/email, or record of conversation.
3. Since that day, any consultation with Cmr Brereton has been in his reserve capacity and not as an assistant Inspector General.
4. The consultation has taken the form of the Cmr continuing to assist by responding to requests for information from the Office of Special Investigator [*not sure if I have described this properly?*].
5. The consultation is occasional – it is not frequent, and it always involves the IGADF approaching the Cmr (not the Cmr approaching them).
6. In each instance the consultation directly relates to Cmr Brereton's work on the Afghan Inquiry (war crimes), and on each occasion it takes the form of the Cmr responding to requests for information from the Office of Special Investigator.
7. Cmr Brereton has never received payment for this assistance.
8. s 47E(d)

Thanks

s 22



Attorney-General

MS23-000413

The Hon Justice Paul Brereton AM RFD

s 47F

By email: s 47F @courts.nsw.gov.au

Dear Justice Brereton

I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment by the Governor-General as the Commissioner of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (the Commission). Your appointment will take effect on the day that the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (the Act) commences, for a period of five years. To meet the Australian Government's commitment for the Commission to commence in mid-2023, I anticipate that the Act will commence and your appointment will take effect from 1 July 2023.

A copy of the instrument of your appointment is enclosed.

Remuneration and allowances for the position are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are contained in the *Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full-time Public Office) Determination 2022*. Official travel guidance is set out in *Remuneration Tribunal (Official Travel) Determination 2022*. Recreation leave entitlements are governed by *Remuneration Tribunal (Recreation Leave for Holders of Relevant Offices) Determination 2018*. Copies of these determinations are available at: www.remtribunal.gov.au/full-time-offices.

As the inaugural Commissioner, you will play a critical role in establishing a powerful, transparent and independent Commission. In leading the Commission, you will work to prevent, detect and investigate serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. Your role will also include efforts to educate the Commonwealth public sector and the broader public in preventing corruption.

The Attorney-General's Department (the department) is working closely with the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (which will be subsumed into the Commission) to finalise preparations for the Commission's commencement.

In anticipation of your appointment to the Commission commencing, the department will discuss with you your availability to commence as Commissioner-designate prior to the opening of the Commission. This role will enable you to provide guidance and input on a range of important matters which will be crucial to the successful establishment of the Commission by 1 July 2023.

I acknowledge your many years of service to the Australian community, including in the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Army Reserve, as a judge of the New South Wales Supreme Court and Court of Appeal and as Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). I am confident that your extensive experience will be of significant value to the Commission as it commences its important work.

I note your intention to continue your current unpaid appointment as a part-time member and Deputy President of the NSW Law Reform Commission. I do not consider that this role is likely to raise any perceived or actual conflicts of interest and note that, if a conflict of interest was to arise you would manage it through delegation to a Deputy Commissioner.

I also note your intention to retain your commission as Major-General in the ADF Reserves, and in particular your honorary appointments as Colonel Commandant of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment, and also to continue, on a strictly informal basis, to provide advice and respond to requests for information as the IGADF undertakes ongoing work related to the implementation of the IGADF Afghanistan Report. I recognise the importance of the implementation work flowing from the Afghanistan Report. However, I note that the IGADF and the ADF will fall within your jurisdiction as Commissioner and any perceived or actual conflict of interest arising from your continued association with those bodies must be actively managed or, ideally, avoided.

As such, I have asked that you develop and implement a robust conflict of interest management plan in relation to these bodies and that you do not undertake any new or ongoing formal work for the IGADF once your appointment has commenced. In this respect, I note that you intend to resign your appointment as an Assistant IGADF with effect from the commencement of your appointment, and that were a NACC matter potentially to affect IGADF or any other ADF unit or individual with whom you are or have been associated in a way that might reasonably be perceived to create a conflict, you propose to address that by delegating it to a Deputy Commissioner.

Congratulations again on your appointment.

Yours sincerely



THE HON MARK DREYFUS KC MP

30 / 3 / 2023

Encl. *Instrument of Appointment*

s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2025 11:53 AM
To: **s 22**; Rebekah O'Meagher; Philip Reed; **s 22**
Subject: RE: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you all for your input.

I've made a few further edits. From my perspective I think this is now good to go, but very happy for others to comment.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

P. **s 47E(d), s 47F**
M. **s 47E(d), s 47F**
E. **s 47E(d), s 47F** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)
EA: **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



From: **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>
Sent: Friday, 3 October 2025 8:28 AM
To: Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Paul Brereton **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Philip Reed **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

I've also made some further suggested changes at pages 1-2 regarding the three IGADF referrals, to address why they weren't included in previous correspondence.

From: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 10:32 PM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#); Philip Reed [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Commissioner – I have suggested a few changes and added a couple of comments.

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#)
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 4:08 PM
To: Philip Reed [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you all.

I've reviewed and revised this. I've addressed the confirmation from IGADF in a slightly different way from that suggested by CEO.

The FOI docs from Defence cover both extensions but I haven't gone into detail.

Please review.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

P: [s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
M: [s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
E: [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#)
EA: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: Philip Reed [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 2:16 PM
To: [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)>; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)>
Cc: [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi – I have made one comment in the answer to the resignation. I think we need to put on the record the OIGADF confirmation of the verbal resignation. Regards, Philip

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 1:54 PM
To: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)>
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Letter from the Inspector of the NACC to the CEO [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Philip and Commissioner,

At the link below is the draft response to the Inspector's letter of 29/09/2025 to Philip (attached). The draft has been prepared by [s 22](mailto:s 22 @nacc.gov.au) and myself, and he's asked me to now send it to you for review.

[20251003 CEO to Inspector - Commissioner's ongoing engagement with IGADF.docx](#)

At the additional link below, is a folder containing the proposed enclosures to the draft response, as well as relevant previous correspondence with the Inspector (which may be helpful background).

[Insp re IGADF](#)

There are some sections which may require your input as well as review.

NB - In terms of the para on page 3 regarding being unable to provide details of the consultations due to the timeframe to respond, please let me know if I can assist [s 22](mailto:s 22 @nacc.gov.au) with pulling any necessary information together by tomorrow.

Regards,
[s 22](mailto:s 22 @nacc.gov.au)

[s 22](mailto:s 22 @nacc.gov.au)

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted signature block]

S 22

S 22

s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 4:10 PM
To: s 22; NACC - Media; Philip Reed
Cc: s 22; s 22; Rebekah O'Meagher; s 22
Subject: RE: Media request - The ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Please see below suggestions.

Meanwhile, I'll see if I can find the resignation.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P: s 47E(d), s 47F
M: s 47E(d), s 47F
E: s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au
EA: s 22@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

s 22

[Large redacted area]

[Redacted]

s 22

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 3:14 PM
 To: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au)
 Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
 Subject: RE: Media request - The ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Afternoon all,

s 22 @nacc.gov.au

[Redacted]

On the other questions of her enquiry, I've drafted the below for consideration by the Commissioner and Philip:

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF prior to commencing as Commissioner. Since then, his occasional assistance to the OIGADF has been as a consultant. Since 1 June 2023, this assistance has been infrequent, and is necessary given his extensive knowledge of and expertise in the specific inquiry subject matter. In no way does this impact on his ability to fulfil his duties as Commissioner. Any perceived or actual conflict of interest that arises in the course of his duties is managed appropriately, and in accordance with his previous declarations, the Commissioner does not participate in matters which involve the IGADF.

Please let me know if you're comfortable or have any feedback.

Cheers,
s 22 @nacc.gov.au

s 22 @nacc.gov.au Media and Communications

s 22 @nacc.gov.au

S 22

s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media request - The ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Sorry if coming across the top of others. I just note there is going to be limited time to consult with the Commissioner as he will not be returning to the office until 3:30pm.

s 22 [Redacted]

47C(1)(a) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 2:04 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Media request - The ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Commissioner and Philip, flagging the email contact below and follow up queries from s 22 [REDACTED] with you.

Attached is our QON on this issue, and below is what we provided to s 22 [REDACTED] in April on the same subject matter:

The Commissioner's Defence service is a matter of public record. While he retains the rank of Major General, since resigning his appointment as an Assistant Inspector General of the ADF prior to assuming the appointment as Commissioner, his only functions are as honorary Colonel Commandant of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment. He occasionally, on weekends or holidays or out-of-hours, visits and participates in ceremonial and regimental activities in that capacity, and appropriately wears uniform when doing so in accordance with that ceremonial function.

This does not affect his full-time commitment to his duties as Commissioner. It does not compromise the Commissioner's ability to investigate and expose misconduct in Defence impartially and independently, as he previously did in his role as an Assistant IGADF. If matters arise that may affect the interests of an individual or unit with whom he has served or had a close association which might reasonably be considered to be a perceived or actual conflict, he declares the conflict, delegates the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, and does not participate in deliberations.

We can work on a proposed response for your review, please let us know any views you may have.

s 22 [REDACTED], Media, Communications, Corruption Prevention and Education
M. s 22 [REDACTED].gov.au

From: s 47F [REDACTED]@abc.net.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 September 2025 1:29 PM
To: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: Media request - The ABC

Hey there,

Me again - just noticed you have updated Matthew Vesper's contract on AusTender. Why wasn't this "administrative correction" picked up earlier given his contract ended some months ago? See here: <https://www.tenders.gov.au/Cn/Show/209a98bd-d384-410f-a31f-a5533912ad5e>

I also have a separate query about Paul Brereton's age extension with the OIGADF.

- I've obtained, via FOI, Mr Brereton's compulsory retirement age extension documents. It includes a letter from Assistant Secretary of the OIGADF - Matthew Berrisford on the 19th June last year, that confirms the commissioner continues to provide "critical" capability to the IGADF.
- It states: "From time to time, MAJGEN Brereton assists OIGADF in its work. The IGADF, Mr James Gaynor, supports MAJGEN Brereton's CRA extension to 27 August 2026, which will provide continuity and capability for the OIGADF, and assist OIGADF to continue providing high-level support to the Ministers, Defence and external Government agencies."

- It adds that extensions are warranted “in circumstances where a capability gap cannot be met by standard means,” and says the gap in this case “cannot be met because of MAJGEN Brereton’s unique and extensive experience dealing with the specific inquiry subject matter, and his specialist expertise.”
- A box marked with "does the member have a critical skill that requires Army retention?" is ticked "yes".

At Senate estimates in 2023, Mr Brereton told senators he had resigned as assistant inspector-general of the ADF in May of that year before becoming commissioner of the NACC.

At the time, the Commission also stated: “Commissioner Brereton was appointed an Assistant Inspector General of the ADF in May 2016, and resigned that appointment in or about May 2023 before commencing as Commissioner.”

In response to a separate FOI request seeking the document, record or email that records Mr Brereton’s resignation as Assistant IGADF, Defence said no such document could be identified.

Questions for the NACC

1. Has Paul Brereton in fact resigned as Assistant IGADF?
2. The FOI material shows Brereton has continued assisting the IGADF, despite telling Senate estimates in 2023 that he resigned that role before becoming commissioner of the NACC. In what capacity is Mr Brereton assisting the IGADF?
3. Is it appropriate to continue this work given the NACC is also responsible for investigating defence?

Deadline for comment is 430pm today.

Many thanks,

s 47F



s 47F

Acting Defence Correspondent, Parliament House

s 47F

bc.net.au

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s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 2:49 PM
To: NACC - Media; Philip Reed
Cc: **s 22**; Peter Ratcliffe; **s 22** Rebekah O'Meagher; Nicole Rose; Kylie Kilgour
Subject: RE: Media request - the ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

I've inserted some draft comments below, but it may be best not to respond.

PB

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 2:34 PM
To: Paul Brereton **s 47E(d), s 47F**@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>; **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>; **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>; **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22**@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Media request - the ABC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Commissioner and Philip,

Please see below a media enquiry we've received from the ABC regarding the Commissioner and IGADF. Noting the tight deadline, **47C(1)(a)**

Open to discussing the approach with you – please let me know if a discussion would be easier.

Cheers,

s 22

s 22
 Media and Communications

s 22
[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

From: s 47F [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@abc.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 2:21 PM
To: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: Media request - the ABC

Hi there,

Hope you're well. I am seeking comment from NACC CEO Philip Reed in regards to evidence that came out of Senate Estimates last night that the IGADF has sought advice from Paul Brereton on 11 occasions since he became head of the federal anti corruption commission.

Inspector-General of the ADF James Gaynor told Senate Estimate last night Mr Brereton was providing "very limited but necessary" support to the body and was privy to sensitive defence information.

"Since being appointed as the National Anti Corruption Commissioner, we have put queries to him on 11 occasions — 11 occasions since 1 July 2023," he said. "I don't have the response dates — and sometimes the responses haven't been quick but have always been on the understanding the assistance Major-General Brereton provides us is deprioritised."

Mr Gaynor would not describe the contribution as "work", instead saying:

"We put queries to him. We'd confirm our analysis and assessment of aspects of the conduct of the Afghan inquiry are correct — so it's a simple, 'This is what we think, are we correct?' and he can respond. The nature of the engagement is very limited and the nature of the assistance he provides is very limited but essential for my office."

Asked if Mr Brereton's advice or contribution had "fed into ministers and external agencies", Mr Gaynor replied: "Yes, Senator."

He also provided the dates the IGADF sought advice from Mr Brereton since he became head of the NACC on July 1, 2023, including as recently as last fortnight.

The dates are:

- 16 December 23
- 31 January 24
- 13 March 24
- 3 September 24
- 17 October 24
- 18 November 24
- 27 November 24
- 5 March 25
- 6 March 25
- 28 March 25
- 26 September 25

QUESTIONS FOR THE NACC

- Does the NACC consider eleven occasions to be "infrequent"? *11 occasions in 27 months is in frequent*
- Is it appropriate that Paul Brereton's official NACC email address was used in this consulting correspondence with the IGADF? *This question is misconceived. It wasn't.*
- Was the NACC aware that Mr Brereton has been accessing sensitive defence information while head of the commission?
- As at 10/10/25 how many defence referrals or investigations has Mr Brereton recused himself from since becoming commissioner? 9
- Is Mr Reed aware that on the day after budget estimates (In which he gave incorrect evidence that Mr Brereton had no ongoing role with the IGADF) that Mr Brereton received a request for advice from the IGADF (see dates above)? *This question is misconceived. Mr Reed gave no such evidence.*

- Given the evidence from the IGADF that Mr Brereton has, and is, entitled to remuneration for the time he performed duties for the IGADF (although he has chosen not to claim any monies) does the NACC maintain that the position is honorary? [*Check what IGADF actually said, but*] Yes
- Is the NACC aware of whether Mr Brereton's continued IGADF service is contributing to his eligibility for medal entitlements such as the Defence Long Service Medal and any entitlements under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004? *It doesn't.*
- Can you confirm the exact nature of the advice or queries sought by IGADF? Was it in the realm of legal advice? *See the IGADF's evidence.*

Deadline for comment is COB today. Let me know if any issues with that.

As always, I'm available on **s 47F** if you have any questions.

Many thanks,

s 47F



s 47F
Acting Defence Correspondent, Parliament House
s 47F [@abc.net.au](mailto:s47f@abc.net.au)

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s 22

From: Paul Brereton
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:59 AM
To: Philip Reed; **s 22**; Kylie Kilgour; **s 22**; Rebekah O'Meagher; Nicole Rose
Cc: **s 22**
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

As do I.

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

P. (s 47E(d), s 47F)

M. (s 47E(d), s 47F)

nacc.gov.au

EA: **s 22** nacc.gov.au



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National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: Philip Reed **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:58 AM
To: **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton **s 47E(d), s 47F** @nacc.gov.au>; **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>; **s 22** @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi **s 22** – I support the revised draft. Regards, Philip

From: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:56 AM
 To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Sharing the approved wording below – we will issue this to the two journalists and publish the Monthly Update imminently.

Attributable to a NACC spokesperson:

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Commissioner Brereton held an appointment as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). In that capacity, he led the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF in May 2023, before his appointment as Commissioner took effect on 1 July 2023.

Since June 2023, the Commissioner has had no formal or official position with IGADF. He has continued to respond, on an informal and honorary basis, when consulted by the Office of the Inspector-General of the ADF, to occasional requests for advice and information about the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report, of which he has unique knowledge.

At no time has Commissioner Brereton sought, received or expected payment or any other form of compensation for this.

However, to avoid any perception of a conflict, the Commissioner has not and does not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

The then Attorney-General was aware and acknowledged at the time of the Commissioner's appointment that after resigning as an Assistant IGADF he would continue to provide advice and respond, on a strictly informal basis, to requests for information from the Office of the IGADF about the Afghanistan Inquiry. As no compensation would be involved, the Attorney-General's formal approval was not required.

s 22 [REDACTED] Media, Communications, Corruption Prevention and Education
 s 22 [REDACTED]
[s 22 \[REDACTED\]@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au)

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:50 AM
 To: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

My revised version for consideration:

Attributable to a NACC spokesperson:

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Commissioner Brereton held an appointment as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). In that capacity, he led the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF in May 2023, before his appointment as Commissioner took effect on 1 July 2023.

Since June 2023, the Commissioner has had no formal or official position with IGADF. He has continued to respond, on an informal and honorary basis, when consulted by the Office of the Inspector-General of the ADF, to occasional requests for advice and information about the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report, of which he has unique knowledge.

At no time has Commissioner Brereton sought, received or expected payment or any other form of compensation for this.

However, to avoid any perception of a conflict, the Commissioner has not and does not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

The then Attorney-General was aware and acknowledged at the time of the Commissioner's appointment that after resigning as an Assistant IGADF he would continue to provide advice and respond, on a strictly informal basis, to requests for information from the Office of the IGADF about the Afghanistan Inquiry. As no compensation would be involved, the Attorney-General's formal approval was not required.

From: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:34 AM
To: Philip Reed s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good morning all,

In line with feedback from AGD, please see a suggested revised response below to Crikey, Saturday Paper and for inclusion in the monthly update below – due to be sent **by midday** today.

Cheers,

s 22

**

Attributable to a NACC spokesperson:

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Commissioner Brereton held an appointment as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). In that capacity, he led the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF in May 2023, before his appointment as Commissioner took effect on 1 July 2023.

Since June 2023, the Commissioner has had no formal or official position with IGADF.

The then Attorney-General was aware at the time of the Commissioner's appointment that he would resign as Assistant IGADF but would continue to provide advice and respond to requests for information from the Office of the IGADF, when consulted, on a strictly informal and honorary basis. The Commissioner has never sought, received nor expected any compensation in any form for doing so.

As the role was unpaid, the Attorney-General's formal approval was not required.

Nonetheless, to avoid any perception of a conflict, the Commissioner has not and does not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

s 22
Media and Communications

M s 22
@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 4:37 PM

To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22 – yes we were aware of Senator Watts response. Regards, Philip

From: s 22 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 4:11 PM

To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thank you Commissioner and Philip.

For info, please note s 22 has posted the below thread on Twitter/X this afternoon. She links to a video Senator Lambie posted to Facebook of an exchange she had with Senator Watt in June 2023, which begins on p46 of [that particular day's Hansard](#) (also excerpted below).

Cheers,

s 22



Olivia Caisley
@livcaisley



Tasmanian Senator Jacqui Lambie asked Labor Senator Murray Watt in 2023 about how Paul Brereton would handle perceived conflicts of interest related to defence as the #NACC's chief commissioner.



facebook.com
17K views · 639 reactions | Yesterday I asked the Governm...
Yesterday I asked the Government some hard questions about the conflicts of interest involving new head of the ...

3:51 PM · Oct 1, 2025 · 39 Views



Post your reply



Olivia Caisley @livcaisley · 7m



He said: "Justice Brereton will resign his judicial appointment and his appointment as Assistant Inspector-General of the ADF."



Olivia Caisley @livcaisley · 7m



While an FOI request could not find his resignation, the NACC said he formally quit and confirmed he occasionally consults for the IGADF.

...pointment as an Assistant IGADF prior to commencing as Commissioner.
...ce to the OIGADF has been as a consultant. Since 1 June 2023, this assistance has been infrequent,
...se in the specific inquiry subject matter. In no way does this impact on his ability to fulfil his duties as
...is managed appropriately, and in accordance with his previous declarations, the Commissioner doe



Olivia Caisley @livcaisley · 7m



A big question for Senate estimates is whether the govt was aware of this "consulting" and the nature of commissioner Brereton's continued "high level support to the ministers, defence and external government agencies" as outlined in the reasons why he was granted an ADF age ext.



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Senator LAMBIE (Tasmania) (14:40): My question is for the Minister representing the Attorney-General. After four years and with well-resourced staff and access, Major General Brereton found that a number of issues and rumours of war crimes emerged from Special Operations Command after Operation Slipper concluded in 2014. Consistent media reporting and evidence before a defamation trial showed that such rumours were prevalent in Special Operations Command and through the chain of command well before 2014. Is the minister confident that Major General Brereton in his new role as the head of the National Anti-Corruption Commission can sit on corruption matters involving Defence and senior ADF officers free of any apprehended bias and apparent conflict of interest?

Senator WATT (Queensland—Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management) (14:40): Thank you, Senator Lambie. I guess the short answer is that the government is confident in its appointment of Major General Brereton to this important role as the head of the new national corruption commission, a body that is sorely needed in this country and has been sorely needed for many years despite the intransigence of the coalition in refusing to actually establish it. But I think all of us have been very concerned about the allegations that have come to light recently partly in response to some recent defamation actions but also more generally as a result of the investigations from the Office of the Special Investigator.

Senator Lambie, as I think you are aware, the Office of the Special Investigator is continuing to work with the Australian Federal Police to investigate those allegations of war crimes by members of the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan from 2005 to 2016. They are extremely serious allegations that deserve to be properly, independently and fairly investigated. The OSI is one element of the broader response to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Forces' Afghanistan inquiry report, or the Brereton report. I don't propose to comment on investigations or inquiries that have been undertaken by the AFP, the OSI or the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force, but these are very serious matters that deserve proper investigation.

The Attorney-General, the government and I have confidence in Major General Brereton to head up this organisation. We hope that he has the full support of the Australian community in rooting out any form of corruption that exists within the Australian government. There have obviously been a range of allegations that have come to light in that respect over the last few months as well, and they deserve to be properly investigated.

The PRESIDENT: Senator Lambie, a first supplementary question?

Senator LAMBIE (Tasmania) (14:42): A government appointed oversight panel described Major General Brereton's exoneration of senior commanders as 'blanket exemptions' from command responsibility. International criminal lawyers and legal academics have consistently rebutted these blanket exemptions. Will the minister provide a guarantee that Major General Brereton will excuse himself from hearing corruption matters involving senior Defence officials and senior ADF officers to avoid suggestions of apprehended bias or a conflict of interest?

Senator WATT (Queensland—Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management) (14:43): Thank you, Senator Lambie. Again, I have confidence in Major General Brereton not just as a distinguished figure within the military but also as a very experienced lawyer that he will follow all obligations he has in terms of conflicts of interest, as would any member of the national corruption commission, once it gets up

and running. I'm not particularly familiar with the report that you're talking about, being the representing minister, but I have full confidence that Major General Brereton will do the right thing in considering any possible conflict of interest that he might have.

We take the role of the new national corruption commission extremely seriously. It's long overdue. It should have been up and running years ago. The former government committed to introducing one and never got around to it. Senator Cash was the Attorney-General for much of that period and failed to progress that. I'm very pleased that we will have a corruption commission and— *(Time expired)*

The PRESIDENT: Senator Lambie, a second supplementary question?

Senator LAMBIE (Tasmania) (14:44): Having heard clear evidence of conflicts of interest involving ADF senior leadership, including as recently as the last estimates hearings, where we learned the CDF marked his own homework, how can the minister be confident that such exemptions won't be applied by Major General Brereton to Defence officials and senior ADF officers or his mates appearing before the National Anti-Corruption Commission?

Senator WATT (Queensland—Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management) (14:44): Thank you again, Senator Lambie. In terms of the issue relating to medals that you've raised—and I know this is something you're very interested in, Senator Lambie, and you've pursued it in estimates as well—as I'm sure you're aware, the Chief of the Defence Force has provided his recommendations on command accountability to the Deputy Prime Minister. The Deputy Prime Minister, in his capacity as Minister for Defence, is considering those recommendations and seeking advice as appropriate.

But to the broader issue about potential conflicts of interest involving Major General and Justice Brereton, Justice Brereton will resign his judicial appointment and his appointment as Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force before taking up his role as the commissioner of the NACC. He will retain his position as Major General in the ADF reserves and honorary appointments as Colonel Commander of the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment. Justice Brereton will actively manage any perceived or actual conflict of interest that arises in the course of his duties from his prior roles—for example, by delegating the relevant matter to a deputy commissioner. *(Time expired)*

s 22

Media and Communications

Ms 22

[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:ms22@nacc.gov.au)nacc.gov.au

National Anti-Corruption Commission

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s47E(d),s47F@nacc.gov.au)

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 3:09 PM

To: s 22 [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); Philip Reed

[s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); Rebekah O'Meagher

[s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au)

Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au)

[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s22@nacc.gov.au)

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

I agree with that approach.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P. **s 47E(d), s 47F**
M. **s 47E(d), s 47F**
E. **s 47E(d), s 47F** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47F@nacc.gov.au)
EA: **s 22** [nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 2:53 PM
To: Kylie Kilgour **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Philip Reed **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Paul Brereton **s 47E(d), s 47F** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47F@nacc.gov.au)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; Nicole Rose **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>
Cc: **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Afternoon all,

For info, we've also received the attached enquiry from the Saturday Paper. While he hasn't asked the specific questions around any ministerial awareness/nature of the assistance to IGADF, **s 47C(1)(a)**

s 22 Please let me know if you have any concerns with this approach – his deadline is also midday tomorrow.

Cheers,
s 22

s 22
Media and Communications

M s 22
@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 1:28 PM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: Re: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Nothing from me

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Michael Courts s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:07:50 PM
To: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thank you Commissioner and Philip, I will hold onto it while we await any feedback.

Cheers,
s 22

s 22
Media and Communications

M s 22
@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:50 AM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au); s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi – I support this draft statement. [47C\(1\)\(a\) @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47C(1)(a) @nacc.gov.au)
 Regards, Philip

From: Paul Brereton [s 47F, s 47E\(d\) @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47F, s 47E(d) @nacc.gov.au)
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:22 AM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Colleagues,

Thanks, s 22 @nacc.gov.au, for your work on this. Possible statement for inclusion in monthly update etc and response to Crikey:

Commissioner Brereton's assistance to IGADF

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Commissioner Brereton held an appointment as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force. In that capacity, he led the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF in May 2023, before his appointment as Commissioner took effect on 1 July 2023.

Since June 2023, the Commissioner has had no formal or official position with IGADF. In accordance with arrangements which the relevant Minister was informed of and acknowledged in the appointment process of the Commissioner, he has continued to respond, on an informal and honorary basis, when consulted, to occasional requests for advice and information arising out of the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report, of which he has unique knowledge. He has never sought, received nor expected any compensation in any form for doing so. Nonetheless, to avoid any perception of a conflict, the Commissioner has not and does not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

Given my inevitable lack of objectivity about this, I am very open to feedback!

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

P: s 47E(d), s 47F

M: s 47E(d), s 47F

E: s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au

EA: s 22 @nacc.gov.au



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National Anti-Corruption Commission

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s 22

s 22

s 22
Media and Communications

Ms 22
nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



s 22

s 22

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 4:44 PM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au); Philip Reed s 22@nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22@nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22@nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22@nacc.gov.au; s 22@nacc.gov.au
Subject: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good afternoon Commissioner, Philip and all,

We've received the below media enquiry this afternoon from Crikey, following up on the ABC story yesterday morning. While I've pulled out the below lines based on what we provided to the ABC as a start, I understand words may already be under consideration/being pulled together to address this matter, and as these questions go more into some specifics, it may be easier to come up with a response as a group.

For noting, the journalist posted the attached on Bluesky (an alternative to Twitter/X) late last week, and has previously reported on Operation Bannister.

Please let me know if easier to catch up to discuss.

Cheers,

s 22@nacc.gov.au

**

Journalist and outlet: Nick Feik, Crikey

Deadline: 12pm Thurs

Journalist's enquiry:

The following questions relate to the revelation that Chief Commissioner Paul Brereton has continued providing "critical" capability to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) while leading the NACC (reported in the ABC).

Questions:

- What was the nature of the work Chief Commissioner Brereton has done for the IGADF while also in the role of NACC Chief Commissioner?
- Was Chief Commissioner Brereton paid for any work he did with the IGADF while he was also NACC Commissioner, or remunerated in any way by the IGADF during this time?
- Did Chief Commissioner Brereton seek permission from, or inform, the relevant minister for this work and/or remuneration?
- Did the minister grant permission for the Chief Commissioner to continue to work with the IGADF?

Response attributable to a NACC spokesperson:

Commissioner Brereton resigned his appointment as Assistant Inspector-General of the ADF prior to the National Anti-Corruption Commission commencing operations.

Since that time, Commissioner Brereton has very occasionally provided advice to the Office of the Inspector-General of the ADF specifically regarding the inquiry he led, which he is uniquely qualified to assist on.

Any perceived or actual conflict of interest that might arise is managed appropriately, and in accordance with his previous declarations, Commissioner Brereton does not participate in matters which involve the Inspector-General of the ADF.

s 22 [redacted] Media and Communications

s 22 [redacted] nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

S 22

S 22



Drafting and approval timeline

Direct QONs	Due date
GM clearance (if required) and submission to Governance for QA	30-Oct-25
Provided to CEO and Commissioner for final clearance	5-Nov-25
CEO and Commissioner clearance	7-Nov-25
Submission to AGD	Midday 11-Nov-25

Kind regards,

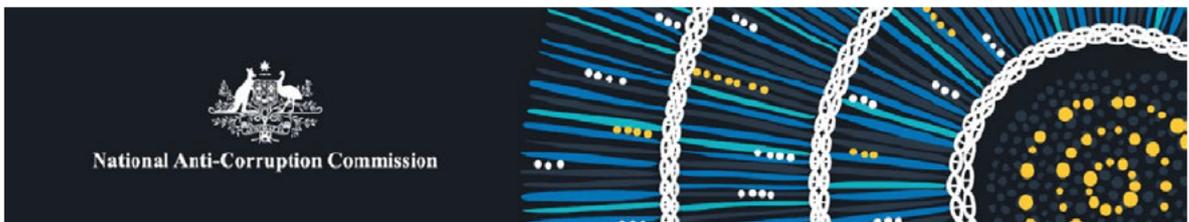
s 22

s 22
Director Governance

s 22
@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



In the spirit of reconciliation, the National Anti-Corruption Commission acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

s 22

From: Nicole Rose
Sent: Wednesday, 22 October 2025 11:50 AM
To: Paul Brereton; Peter Ratcliffe; Kylie Kilgour; Rebekah O'Meagher
Cc: s 22
Subject: AG correspondence re Defence [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear all,

I understand the letter has now been signed and sent to the office of the Attorney.

s 22

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 6:00 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
Cc: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sir

For ease of reading and signing, attached are the final Word versions of both letters.

In the Response letter, I have left one comment from DC Kilgour about unnecessary words. 47C(1)(a). These engagements are part of the recent FOI request.

So at the top of page 3 of the Response letter, you have informed the AG of your engagements with the IGADF as a Major General and as a Reservist. It is suggested that we add a brief sentence here which indicates your engagement as a NACC Commissioner. I've put some very brief details about those engagements in the letter and they are highlighted.

s 22

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 2:05 PM
 To: Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22
 Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks again, all.

Could s 22 please proofread and finalise and I will sign this evening.

PB

From: Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:45 PM
 To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Kylie Kilgour
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Nor me

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:41 PM
 To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton
 s 47E(d), 47F(1) Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Nothing further from me Commissioner.

s 22
 [Redacted signature block]

From: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:39 PM
To: Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Just one comment from me for your consideration.

Kind regards,

s 22 [redacted]

From: Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:38 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

No further comments or suggested changes from me Commissioner.

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:35 PM
To: Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you so much Kylie.

PB

From: Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:17 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Commissioner – my final tweaks are in mark up in the letter to AG

In the declaration I just notice Linda Reynolds and Richard Marles had ended up in same dot point so separated them – track changes wasn't on sorry!

Regards

Kylie

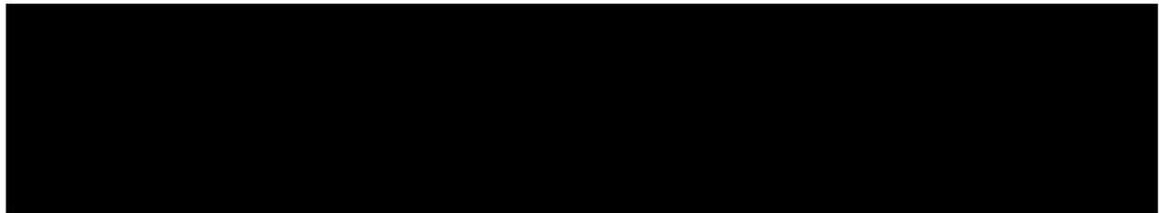
Kylie Kilgour

Deputy Commissioner

s 22 [redacted]
[redacted]



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In the spirit of reconciliation, the National Anti-Corruption Commission acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#)
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 12:51 PM
 To: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Kylie Kilgour [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Nicole Rose [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Peter Ratcliffe [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
 Cc: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
 Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Once again, thank you all for your input. Please see the current versions which incorporate almost all of it and provide explanations in the few exceptions.

Could we please do a final check and proofread? I'll be available until about 2pm this afternoon.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

[s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
[@nacc.gov.au](#)
[s 22](#) [nacc.gov.au](#)



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From: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
 Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 7:14 PM
 To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#); Kylie Kilgour [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Nicole Rose [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Peter Ratcliffe [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
 Cc: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sorry also note Kylie's comments re the formatting has gone awry with the updated declaration of interests letter. I could not fix but I expect s 22 [redacted] will know how to sort it.

From: Rebekah O'Meagher

Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 6:40 PM

To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Commissioner. Aside from a minor typo nothing further from me.

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 4:34 PM

To: Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Colleagues,

Thank you all for your comments and suggestions, almost all of which I have accepted or otherwise addressed.

I have also inserted (marked-up) a further couple of paras in the letter, and in the updated DMI.

I would be very grateful if you could review – the whole letter as well as the marked up additions.

Best regards,

s 47F [redacted]

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

s 47E(d), s 47F [redacted]
s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au



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National Anti-Corruption Commission

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We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

s 22

s 22

s 22

From: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 7:11 PM
 To: Paul Brereton [47F\(1\), s 47E\(d\) @nacc.gov.au](#); Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Cc: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Commissioner. I have added a few suggested changes/comments.

From: Paul Brereton [47F\(1\), s 47E\(d\) @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 6:02 PM
 To: Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Cc: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

We can wait till tomorrow!

PB

From: Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 5:56 PM
 To: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Cc: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
 Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks [s 22](#)

I have made some initial comments, but I would like to look at it tomorrow when I am a bit fresher if possible. I can't tell if the tone of frustration is the letter or just me after the last couple of days!

Can you wait to send tomorrow Commissioner or were you hoping to send tonight?

From: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:53 PM
 To: Paul Brereton <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
 s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: Nicole Rose <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Everyone should now have access.

Kind regards,

s 22 [redacted]

From: Paul Brereton <[redacted]47F(1), s 47E(d)>
 Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:50 PM
 To: [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
 s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: Nicole Rose <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you! Could you please provide access to DCs Rose and Kilgour so they can review?

Best regards,

s 47F [redacted]

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

[redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 EA: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission

We **acknowledge** the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia.

We **recognise** their continuing connection to land, waters and community.

We **pay our respects** to the people, the cultures and the Elders past, present and emerging.

From: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:43 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [REDACTED] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Nothing further from s 22 [REDACTED] myself.

Kind regards,

s 22 [REDACTED]

From: Paul Brereton s 47F(1), s 47E(d) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 2:54 PM
To: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [REDACTED] the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22 [REDACTED] all,

Many thanks for your work on this.

I have now revised the letter, and the updated DMI.

Could you please review ASAP as I'd like to get this off the AGO soonest.

Best regards,

s 47F [REDACTED]

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

s 47E(d), s 47F [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au
 s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au



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From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 13 October 2025 7:45 PM

To: s 22 nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton 47F(1), s 47E(d) Rebekah O'Meagher

s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you



s 22

invited you to edit a folder

Good evening Commissioner,
We have drafted an initial response to the Attorney General.
This folder includes a letter to her, an draft declaration, and your previous declarations.
Please let us know if you would like any further documents or we can assist with updates.

Kind regards,

s 22



[AG correspondence](#)



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s 22

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 10:00 PM
To: [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Nicole Rose [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Many thanks,

All done and signed (attached).

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

[s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
[@nacc.gov.au](#)
[s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au



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From: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 6:00 PM
 To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]
 Cc: Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au> s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sir

For ease of reading and signing, attached are the final Word versions of both letters.

In the Response letter, I have left one comment from DC Kilgour about unnecessary words. 47C(1)(a) [redacted]

So at the top of page 3 of the Response letter, you have informed the AG of your engagements with the IGADF as a Major General and as a Reservist. It is suggested that we add a brief sentence here which indicates your engagement as a NACC Commissioner. I've put some very brief details about those engagements in the letter and they are highlighted.

s 22 [redacted]

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]
 Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 2:05 PM
 To: Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks again, all.

Could s 22 please proofread and finalise and I will sign this evening.

PB

From: Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:45 PM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Nor me

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:41 PM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Kylie Kilgour <s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Nothing further from me Commissioner.

s 22
[Redacted]

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:39 PM
To: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) ; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Just one comment from me for your consideration.

Kind regards,

s 22

From: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:38 PM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\) @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), 47F(1) @nacc.gov.au); Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: s 22 @nacc.gov.au shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

No further comments or suggested changes from me Commissioner.

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\) @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), 47F(1) @nacc.gov.au)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:35 PM
To: Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: s 22 @nacc.gov.au shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you so much Kylie.

PB

From: Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 1:17 PM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\) @nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), 47F(1) @nacc.gov.au); Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au
Subject: RE: s 22 @nacc.gov.au shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Commissioner – my final tweaks are in mark up in the letter to AG

In the declaration I just notice Linda Reynolds and Richard Marles had ended up in same dot point so separated them – track changes wasn't on sorry!

Regards

Kylie

Kylie Kilgour

Deputy Commissioner

s 22

@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



In the spirit of reconciliation, the National Anti-Corruption Commission acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

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If you have received this transmission in error please notify us immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies. If this e-mail or any attachments have been sent to you in error, that error does not constitute waiver of any confidentiality, privilege or copyright in respect of information in the e-mail or attachments.

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 21 October 2025 12:51 PM
To: Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Peter Ratcliffe s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Once again, thank you all for your input. Please see the current versions which incorporate almost all of it and provide explanations in the few exceptions.

Could we please do a final check and proofread? I'll be available until about 2pm this afternoon.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

s 47E(d), s 47F
nacc.gov.au
s 22 [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)



nacc.gov.au



From: Rebekah O'Meagher **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 7:14 PM
To: Paul Brereton **s 47E(d), 47F(1)** ; Kylie Kilgour **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; Nicole Rose **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; Peter Ratcliffe **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>
Cc: **s 22**
Subject: RE: **s 22** shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Sorry also note Kylie's comments re the formatting has gone awry with the updated declaration of interests letter. I could not fix but I expect **s 22** know how to sort it.

From: Rebekah O'Meagher
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 6:40 PM
To: Paul Brereton **s 47E(d), 47F(1)** ; Kylie Kilgour **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; Nicole Rose **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>; Peter Ratcliffe **s 22** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:)>
Cc: **s 22**
Subject: RE: **s 22** shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Commissioner. Aside from a minor typo nothing further from me.

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#)
Sent: Monday, 20 October 2025 4:34 PM
To: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#); Peter Ratcliffe [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Cc: [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: Sarah Raymond shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Importance: High

OFFICIAL

Colleagues,

Thank you all for your comments and suggestions, almost all of which I have accepted or otherwise addressed.

I have also inserted (marked-up) a further couple of paras in the letter, and in the updated DMI.

I would be very grateful if you could review – the whole letter as well as the marked up additions.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

[s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
[.gov.au](#)
EA [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)



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s 22

s 22

s 22

s 22

From: Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 7:11 PM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\) @nacc.gov.au](#)>; Nicole Rose [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>; [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Cc: Kylie Kilgour [s 22 @nacc.gov.au](#)>
Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you Commissioner. I have added a few suggested changes/comments.

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 6:02 PM
To: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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We can wait till tomorrow!

PB

From: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 5:56 PM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thanks s 22

I have made some initial comments, but I would like to look at it tomorrow when I am a bit fresher if possible. I can't tell if the tone of frustration is the letter or just me after the last couple of days!

Can you wait to send tomorrow Commissioner or were you hoping to send tonight?

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:53 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Everyone should now have access.

Kind regards,

s 22

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:50 PM

To: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] nacc.gov.au>
Cc: Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Thank you! Could you please provide access to DCs Rose and Kilgour so they can review?

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

s 47E(d), 47F(1)



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From: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 4:43 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Rebekah O'Meagher
s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: s 22 [redacted] shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Commissioner,

Nothing further from s 22 [redacted] and myself.

Kind regards,

s 22

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 14 October 2025 2:54 PM
To: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Rebekah O'Meagher
[s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi [s 22](#) and all,

Many thanks for your work on this.

I have now revised the letter, and the updated DMI.

Could you please review ASAP as I'd like to get this off the AGO soonest.

Best regards,

s 47F

The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner

[s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#)
[@nacc.gov.au](#)
EA: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)



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From: Sarah Raymond [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
Sent: Monday, 13 October 2025 7:45 PM
To: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#) Rebekah O'Meagher
[s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: [s 22](#) shared the folder "AG correspondence" with you



s 22 invited you to edit a folder

Good evening Commissioner,
We have drafted an initial response to the Attorney General.
This folder includes a letter to her, an draft declaration, and your previous declarations.
Please let us know if you would like any further documents or we can assist with updates.
Kind regards,

s 22



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s 22

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 11:53 AM

To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour

s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

s 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22

[Redacted]

Subject: RE: Senate Estimates: IGADF appearance clip and media [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning all,

By way of a further update:

- Journalist Olivia Caisley had a live cross on ABC News Channel this morning to discuss the IGADF's appearance and her ABC story this morning – clip available [here](#).
- PM Albanese was asked at a press conference about the issue; he largely declined to buy into it but referred to the Commission's independence from government – clip available [here](#).

s 22 [Redacted]

- Senator David Pocock published the below, linking to this morning's ABC story, on Twitter/X.



David Pocock ✓
@DavidPocock



Even after being found guilty of 'officer misconduct' for mishandling the Robodebt referral, Commissioner of the NACC continues consultancy role despite concerns of perceived conflicts of interest.

At \$820k/year surely he can focus on doing one job well?



From abc.net.au

10:12 AM · Oct 10, 2025 · 2,574 Views

Cheers,

s 47E(d), 47F(1)

s 47E(d), 47F(1)

Acting Director, Media and Communications

s 47E(d), 47F(1)



nacc.gov.au



From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 10 October 2025 10:18 AM

To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au

Cc: s 22 @nacc.gov.au

Cc: s 22

s 22

Subject: Senate Estimates: IGADF appearance clip and media [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good morning all,

The Inspector-General of the ADF appeared at Estimates last night – please find a link to the clip [here](#) – it goes for around 13 minutes with questions from Senator Shoebridge and Senator McLachlan. We are having issues extracting it this morning but will ensure we get a copy for our records, and circulate this, once this issue has been resolved.

The ABC published an article on the hearing, which just missed the cut-off for our morning news clips: [Paul Brereton 'consulted' for ADF watchdog 11 times while head of NACC, Senate estimates hears - ABC News](#)

We'll continue monitoring any media and social media commentary today.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

s 22

s 22

Media and Communications

s 22

[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:media@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission



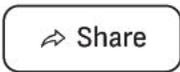
GOVERNMENT & DEMOCRACY FEDERAL

Amid the high drama, Senate estimates brings (semi) transparency

It took Senate estimates to pry it out, but we finally saw a glimpse of how department secretaries are really chosen.



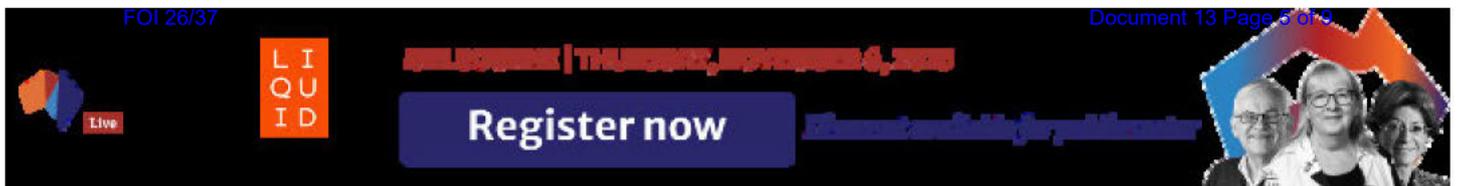
VERONA BURGESS • OCT 10, 2025 • 7 MIN READ



(Zennie/Private Media)

The Earth did not exactly move at this week’s Senate supplementary estimates, but something new did happen among the high drama.

It was an unexpected moment of semi-transparency about the process for choosing new department secretaries.



But first the drama — and there was plenty of it, be it about Optus' 000 blackout (best left to the news as it unfolds); the National Anti-Corruption Commission's finding against Home Affairs secretary Stephanie Foster's former chief of staff; the recent repatriation of two more ISIS women and their four children from Syria via Lebanon; and various other burning issues such as a horrifying fact from the Australian Federal Police: that it has received more than 82,000 reports of online sexual abuse of children this year, 10% up on last year.

When it came to the repatriation of the six women and children from Syria, senators Michaelia Cash and James Paterson spent most of Monday bashing their heads against the metaphorical brick walls of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the minister representing the PM, Senator Penny Wong.

Wong is, of course, foreign affairs minister and doubtless knew everything, but her own department was not due to appear until Friday, a tantalisingly long wait for senators who were champing at the bit to find out how the six managed to get passports and proof of citizenship after fleeing Syria, whether the mothers would be charged with terrorism offences (an investigation is underway, the AFP later said), where they were now located, and anything else they could think of asking.

The government continued to maintain that it had not given the families any repatriation assistance.

When Home Affairs appeared on Tuesday, bits of information finally started to emerge, including that somehow the department had processed the citizenship-by-descent of two of the children. But, hey, that didn't qualify as "government assistance". That was just public servants following the law. As they must.

Then there was the gold award for bullying public servants, which this time around should go to independent senator Lydia Thorpe, particularly in the legal and constitutional affairs committee, when she attempted to monster officials from the Attorney-General's Department who had tried to show her a little compassion for her voluble distress and frustration about the plight of "my people".

Thorpe asks some good questions, but they are fuelled too often by anger and fact-twisting. The kindest thing the public servants might have been thinking about her was

that she does not present as a very well person.

Speaking of anger, but never abusive of public servants, Greens Senator Barbara Pocock was understandably almost incandescent on Tuesday about Finance's green-lighting of PWC as an organisation with which the government might now do business again.

This is despite the fact that legal matters are still outstanding and that PWC is still refusing to release key documents to the Senate relating to the scandal over its use of secret Treasury information to advise clients on how to game the multi-national tax laws.

Of course, the prospect of PWC winning any big contracts in the near future would appear minimal, but never say never. Finance deputy Richard Windeyer told the FPA committee that PWC has not been restored to the all-important Management Advisory Services Panel. He conceded that it does have one new contract, but that was court-ordered, a liquidation matter worth about \$10,000 with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

In other words, DEWR had no choice but to hire PWC. And given DEWR's own current predicament over the AI error-strewn \$430,000 report from Deloitte on DEWR's robodole troubles, it is difficult to imagine the department rushing to market with either one any time soon. But still. Pocock is in the right on this one.

Less dramatic but important is that both PM&C and the Australian Public Service Commission revealed more this week than they have ever done previously about the appointment process for picking a department secretary.

Guess they knew there was only one way to lance the boil of the appointment of former Queensland Labor luminary Mike Kaiser as head of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water department (which, in Canberra acronym-speak, is pronounced "DQ"). Namely, to be as up front as possible while still shrouding the process in "privacy".

The corollary to their unexpected burst of semi-transparency was the confirmation that recently departed Agriculture secretary Adam Fennessy was, in a nutshell, sacked with a year's pay, although not for misconduct. All of which was already obvious given the requirements of the Public Service Act and the Remuneration Tribunal conditions of service.

Opposition senators were not going to let go of the Kaiser appointment, which, despite government efforts to appear nonchalant, has created quite the precedent.

Not that any Coalition government has been the slightest bit transparent about hirings and firings of secretaries unless forced, but let's not talk about the sauce for the geese and ganders.

Kaiser himself made his first appearance at estimates this week and made it through relatively unscathed, openly acknowledging his less-than-salubrious political past but with the emphasis on the "past".

Back in the FPA committee on Monday, amongst much quoting of section 58 of the PS Act by APSC and PM&C officials, it was revealed that a list of four candidates and a selection panel was created for the vacancy. The names of the other three were not revealed.

The panel consisted of the (now) secretary of PM&C, Steven Kennedy; Veterans' Affairs secretary Alison Frame; now Treasury secretary Jenny Wilkinson; and the APS commissioner, Gordon de Brouwer.

The opposition was excited by the revelation that all four had signed a conflict-of-interest declaration, until de Brouwer explained on Tuesday that this is standard practice and none of them had actually had a conflict of interest. Damn it.

PM&C head of the government division Andrew Walte said on Monday that former Climate Change secretary David Fredericks had given some weeks' notice of his intended resignation before officially doing so on May 19, with effect on June 20, so they had had time to prepare for a "closed competitive process".

De Brouwer said on Tuesday that Kaiser had been invited to apply and that indeed his name was on the commissioner's own list of potential candidates.

"After a conversation with the secretary of PM&C [then Glyn Davis], I approached a number of candidates asking whether they were interested in having applications. It was a closed process, but it was an assessment of individuals, and Mr Kaiser was one of those people we asked to put in an application."

Yet nobody was prepared to say who first put Kaiser's name forward, instead somehow suggesting that the four candidates more or less emerged from an evolutionary soup of possibilities.

De Brouwer acknowledged that the job had not been advertised. When pressed, as a former member of the Thodey review, which had recommended that secretaries' positions should be advertised, he said he still agreed with that recommendation.

He added that two previous vacancies in Social Services and Agriculture had, in fact, both been advertised, but not this one.

The panel, which he described as a recent process for picking secretaries, had made unanimous findings, but it is not clear whether they picked Kaiser as the best candidate.

Asked by Tasmanian Senator Jonathon Duniam (who led most of the questioning) whether the panel ranked the four recommended candidates in the report that went to PM&C, de Brouwer said "not generally".

Rather, he said the panel tried to provide information on the candidates' relative strengths and weaknesses, as well as their character, to help inform the decision-makers (the PM, via the secretary of PM&C, now Kennedy), rather than tell them what to do.

There was also some talk, in the case of Kaiser, of redemption for what he had admitted were past terrible mistakes, but anyway.

De Brouwer would not be drawn on whether the government was planning further amendments to the PS Act to strengthen the appointments process.

So, semi-transparency, but better than nothing. And if it had not been for Senate estimates, we would probably never have known. Roll on another four days of estimates in early December.

About the author



Verona Burgess

Verona Burgess is a former government business editor and senior columnist for the Australian Financial Review. She has been writing about the Australian Public Service since 1990. A former Jefferson Fellow, she was also joint winner of the inaugural Richard Baker Senate prize and won

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From: s 22
To: Paul Brereton; s 22; Philip Reed; Kylie Kilgour; s 22; Rebekah O'Meagher; Nicole Rose
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:56:10 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
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[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image012.png](#)

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Sharing the approved wording below – we will issue this to the two journalists and publish the Monthly Update imminently.

Attributable to a NACC spokesperson:

Prior to his appointment as Commissioner, Commissioner Brereton held an appointment as an Assistant Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF). In that capacity, he led the IGADF Afghanistan Inquiry.

The Commissioner resigned his appointment as an Assistant IGADF in May 2023, before his appointment as Commissioner took effect on 1 July 2023.

Since June 2023, the Commissioner has had no formal or official position with IGADF. He has continued to respond, on an informal and honorary basis, when consulted by the Office of the Inspector-General of the ADF, to occasional requests for advice and information about the Afghanistan Inquiry and Report, of which he has unique knowledge.

At no time has Commissioner Brereton sought, received or expected payment or any other form of compensation for this.

However, to avoid any perception of a conflict, the Commissioner has not and does not participate in matters before the Commission which involve or affect the IGADF.

The then Attorney-General was aware and acknowledged at the time of the Commissioner's appointment that after resigning as an Assistant IGADF he would continue to provide advice and respond, on a strictly informal basis, to requests for information from the Office of the IGADF about the Afghanistan Inquiry. As no compensation would be involved, the Attorney-General's formal approval was not required.

s 22
s 22, Media, Communications, Corruption Prevention and Education
s 22
[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)

From: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:50 AM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au; s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au

Cc: s 22 [redacted]

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

My revised version for consideration:

s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 11:34 AM

To: Philip Reed <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]> Kylie Kilgour

<s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

<s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good morning all,

In line with feedback from AGD, please see a suggested revised response below to Crikey, Saturday Paper and for inclusion in the monthly update below – due to be sent **by midday** today.

Cheers,

s 22 [redacted]

**

s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

s 22 [redacted] Media and Communications

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 4:37 PM

To: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Kylie Kilgour

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22 [redacted] – yes we were aware of Senator Watts response. Regards, Philip

From: s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 4:11 PM

To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed

s 22 [redacted] @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher

s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

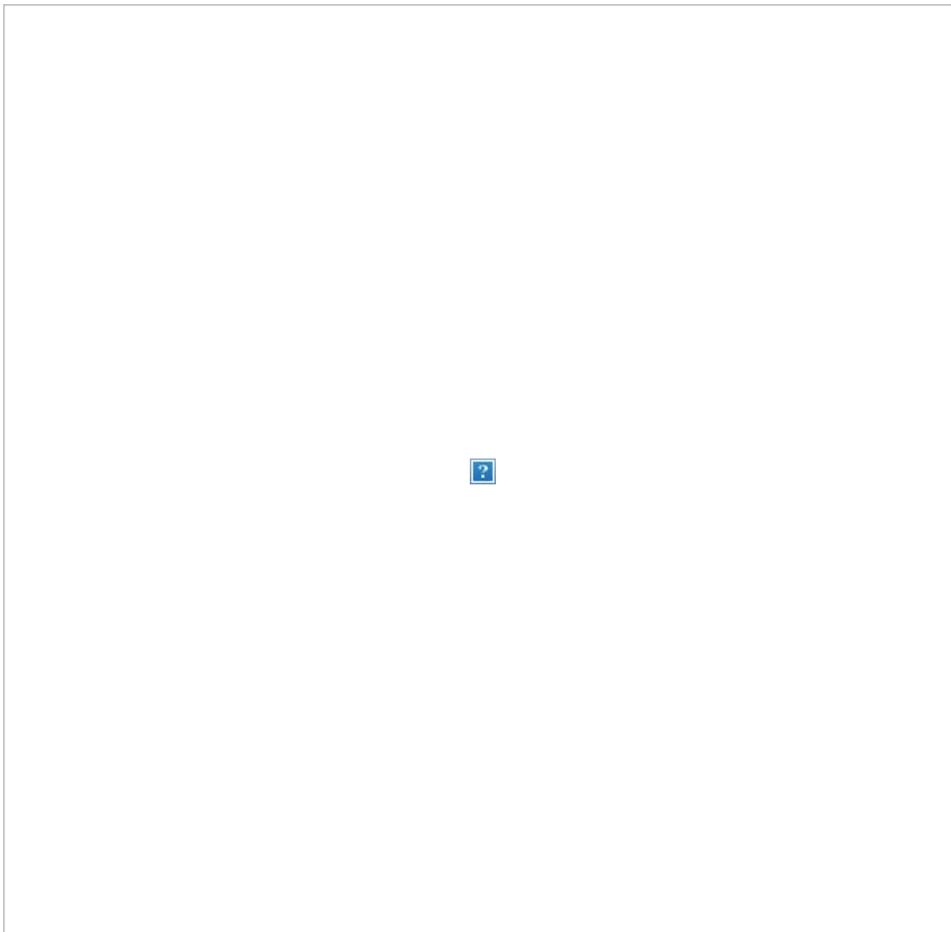
OFFICIAL:Sensitive

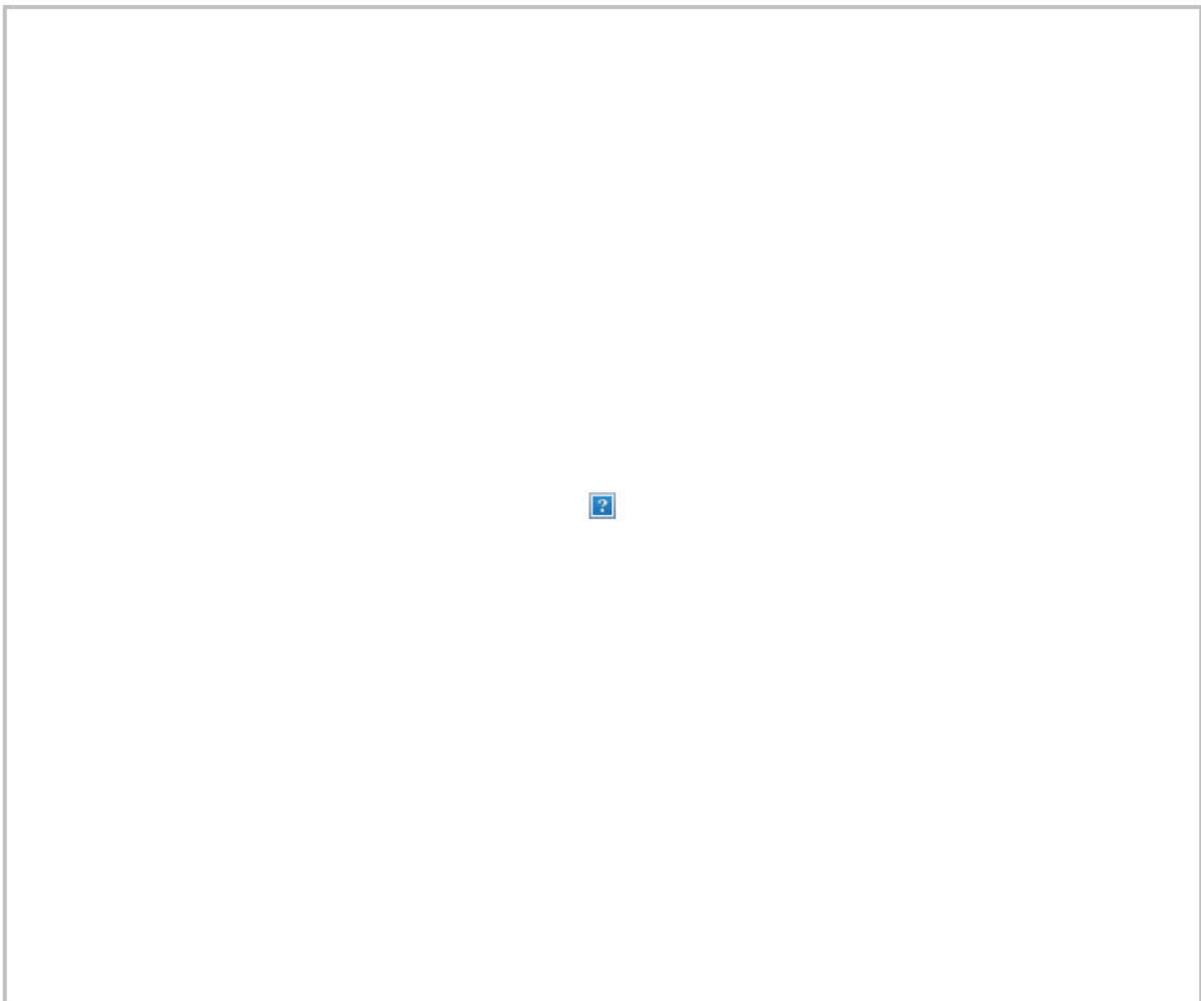
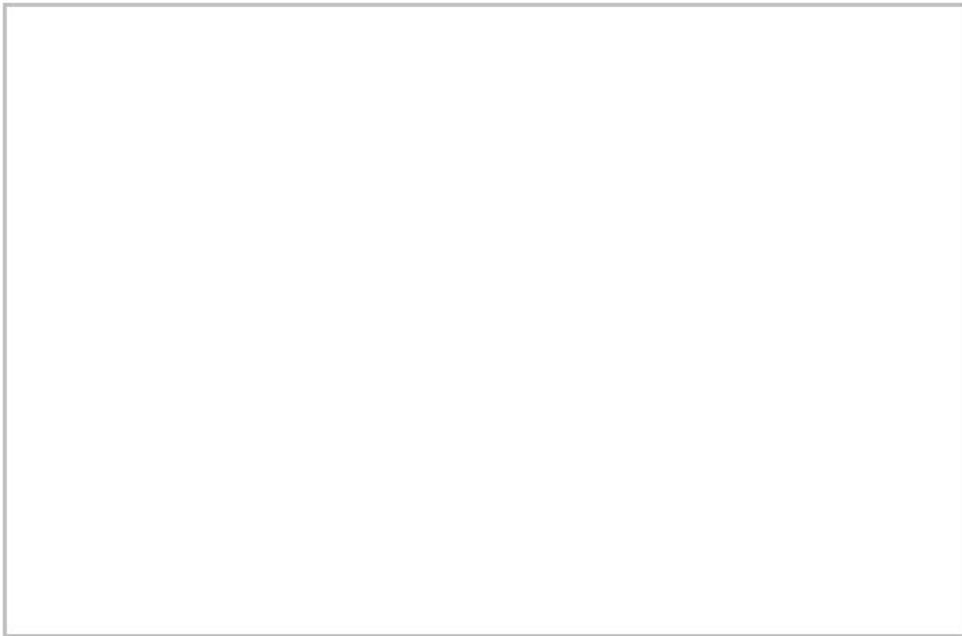
Thank you Commissioner and Philip.

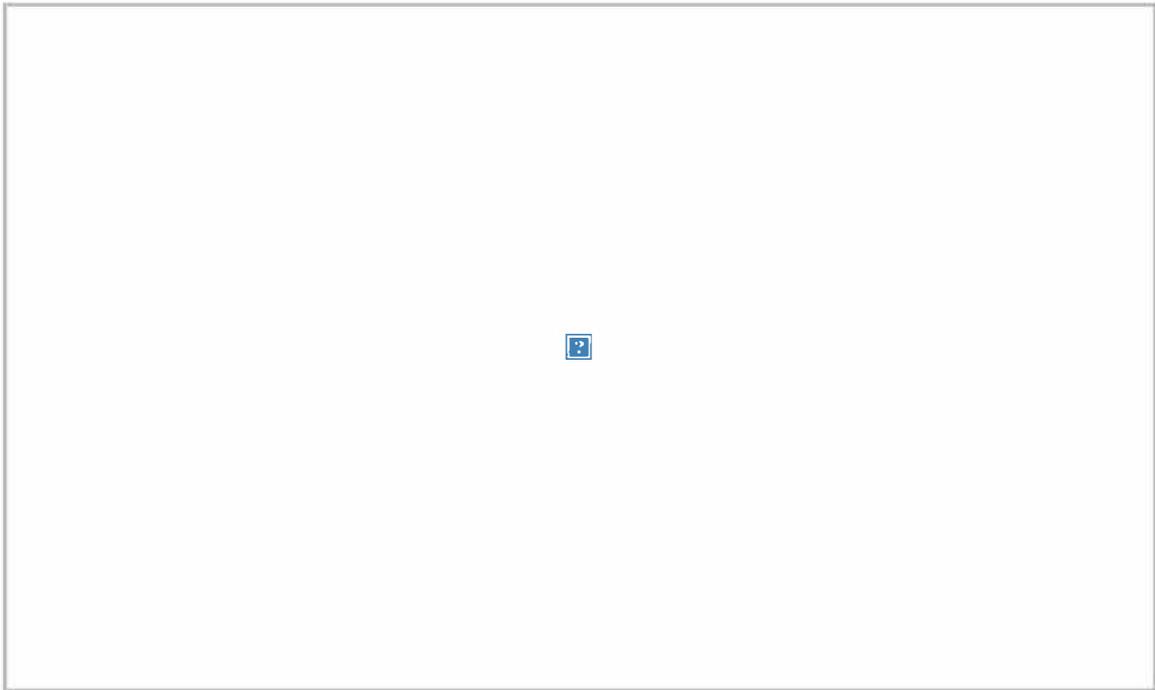
For info, please note Olivia Caisley has posted the below thread on Twitter/X this afternoon. She links to a video Senator Lambie posted to Facebook of an exchange she had with Senator Watt in June 2023, which begins on p46 of [that particular day's Hansard](#) (also excerpted below).

Cheers,

s 22 [redacted]







[Redacted] Media and Communications

[Redacted]@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), 47F\(1\)](#)
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 3:09 PM
To: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Kylie Kilgour [@nacc.gov.au](#); Philip Reed [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#); Rebekah O'Meagher [@nacc.gov.au](#); Nicole Rose [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
Cc: [s 22](#) [@nacc.gov.au](#)
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

I agree with that approach.

Best regards,

s 47F
 The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
 Commissioner

s 47E(d), 47F(1)

s 47E(d), 47F(1)



nacc.gov.au



From: s 22 <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 2:53 PM
To: Kylie Kilgour <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Afternoon all,

For info, we've also received the attached enquiry from the Saturday Paper. While he hasn't asked the specific questions around any ministerial awareness/nature of the assistance to IGADF, I suggest we provide the same, more fulsome response as goes to Crikey, and as included in the monthly update, when finalised, so that he has the full context to consider. Please let me know if you have any concerns with this approach – his deadline is also midday tomorrow.

Cheers,

s 22

[redacted] Media and Communications

[redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>



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From: Kylie Kilgour <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 1:28 PM

To: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Rebekah O'Meagher
Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Nothing from me

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 1:07:50 PM
To: Philip Reed s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thank you Commissioner and Philip, I will hold onto it while we await any feedback.

Cheers,

s 22 [redacted]

s 22 [redacted] Media and Communications

s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



From: Philip Reed s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:50 AM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F(1) [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi – I support this draft statement. Subject to what we receive back from AGD/AGO re the reference to the



From: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 10:48 AM
 To: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted] Philip Reed
 s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher
 <s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Cc: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
 Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

As per discussion, I've added a line around the (former) A-G's awareness.

s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
Acting Director, Media and Communications

[redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>



nacc.gov.au



From: s 22 [redacted] <[redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 9:56 AM
To: Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]>; Philip Reed <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted]
Subject: RE: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

My suggested changes – for discussion at 10am

Questions:

- What was the nature of the work Chief Commissioner Brereton has done for the IGADF while also in the role of NACC Chief Commissioner?
- Was Chief Commissioner Brereton paid for any work he did with the IGADF while he was also NACC Commissioner, or remunerated in any way by the IGADF during this time?
- Did Chief Commissioner Brereton seek permission from, or inform, the relevant minister for this work and/or remuneration?
- Did the minister grant permission for the Chief Commissioner to continue to work with the IGADF?

s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: NACC - Media <Media@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 September 2025 4:44 PM
To: Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [redacted]>; Philip Reed <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher <s 22 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [redacted]
 [redacted]@nacc.gov.au
Subject: Media response for input: IGADF - Crikey [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Good afternoon Commissioner, Philip and all,

We've received the below media enquiry this afternoon from Crikey, following up on the ABC story yesterday morning. **s 47C(1)(a)**

For noting, the journalist posted the attached on Bluesky (an alternative to Twitter/X) late last week, and has previously reported on Operation Bannister.

Please let me know if easier to catch up to discuss.

Cheers,

s 22

**

Journalist and outlet: Nick Feik, Crikey

Deadline: 12pm Thurs

Journalist's enquiry:

The following questions relate to the revelation that Chief Commissioner Paul Brereton has continued providing "critical" capability to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) while leading the NACC (reported in the ABC).

Questions:

- What was the nature of the work Chief Commissioner Brereton has done for the IGADF while also in the role of NACC Chief Commissioner?
- Was Chief Commissioner Brereton paid for any work he did with the IGADF while he was also NACC Commissioner, or remunerated in any way by the IGADF during this time?
- Did Chief Commissioner Brereton seek permission from, or inform, the relevant minister for this work and/or remuneration?
- Did the minister grant permission for the Chief Commissioner to continue to work with the IGADF?

s 22

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

s 22 [Redacted] Media and Communications

s 22 [Redacted] [@nacc.gov.au](https://nacc.gov.au)





From: s 22
To: Philip Reed; Paul Brereton; Rebekah O'Meagher; Nicole Rose; s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:28:00 PM
Attachments: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media SECOFFICIALSensitive.msg

Thanks Philip – email sent.

From: Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:18 PM
To: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1)
 Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22
 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22 – thank you for the updated draft. I support the revised draft. I think it would be good if you emailed it to 47F(1). Once it has been sent, I propose to contact 47F(1) to let them know it is with AGD. Regards, Philip

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:14 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>;
 Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose
 s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22
 @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

This is the revised draft, incorporating Cmr's amendments. I've also added an additional point given Philip's comment.

If this is good to go, I'm happy to send to 47F(1) unless you prefer to do that Philip?

Having a well overdue second coffee, I'll be back in 5 min.

Thanks

s 22

Dea 47F(1)

As you are aware, there has been recent media reporting regarding the Commissioner's

association with the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF).

We also expect that this is likely to be the subject of questions at Estimates next week.

s 47C(1)(a) [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please see **attached** letter from the Attorney-General to the Commissioner dated 30 March 2023 (letter of congratulations).

In this letter the Attorney-General noted the Commissioner's intention to continue, on a strictly informal basis, to provide advice and respond to requests for information as the IGADF undertakes ongoing work related to the implementation work flowing from the Afghanistan Report. The importance of this work was noted, as was the need to properly manage any perceived or actual conflicts of interest arising from the Commissioner's association with the IGADF and ADF. All steps taken by the Commissioner to date have been in accordance with the understanding and expectations set out in this correspondence. Any perception of a conflict has been avoided through the Commissioner not participating in any matters involving IGADF.

s 47C(1)(a) [Redacted]

For completeness, please note that:

- We have received correspondence from the Inspector of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, seeking information regarding the Commissioner's ongoing engagement

with the IGADF. We are intending to provide a copy of the Attorney-General's letter with our response to the Inspector.

- s 47E(d) [REDACTED]

From: Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:02 PM
To: Philip Reed <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22 [REDACTED]

s 47C(1)(a) [REDACTED]

PB

From: Philip Reed <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:51 AM
To: Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [REDACTED]>
 Rebekah O'Meagher <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi – yes and I support your form of words. Regards, Philip

From: Paul Brereton <s 47E(d), 47F(1) [REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:50 AM
To: Philip Reed <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>

Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

I've addressed it in a slightly different way in my suggested revisions.

PB

From: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:46 AM
To: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [REDACTED]
 Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose
 s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi s 22 [REDACTED] I am generally Ok with this draft email. s 47C(1)(a) [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Regards, Philip

From: s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:22 AM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), 47F(1) [REDACTED] Philip Reed s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>;
 Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 [REDACTED]@nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose
 s 22 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
Subject: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi all

Draft email to AGD below.

Thanks

s 22 [REDACTED]

s 22 [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

- [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

- [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted]
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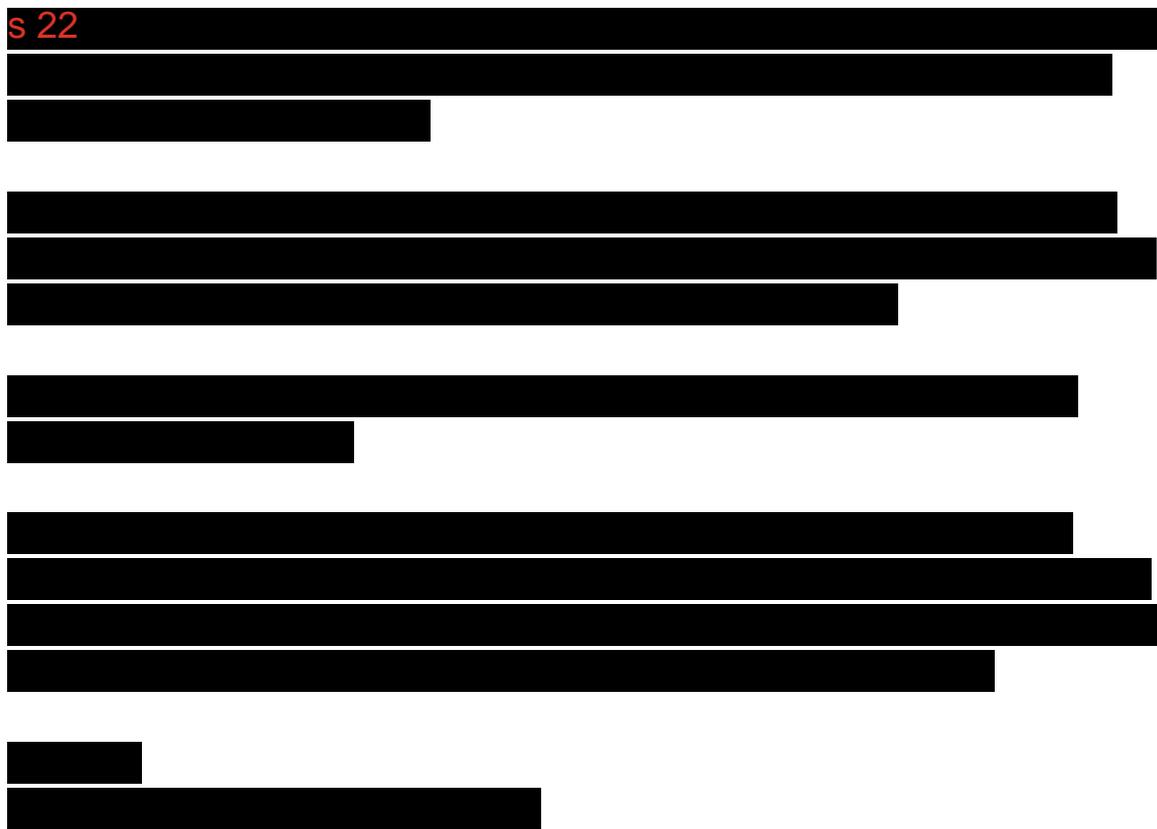
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s 22



Journalist and outlet: Nick Feik, Crikey

Deadline: 12pm Thurs

Journalist's enquiry:

The following questions relate to the revelation that Chief Commissioner Paul Brereton has continued providing "critical" capability to the Inspector-General of the Australian Defence Force (IGADF) while leading the NACC (reported in the ABC).

Questions:

- *What was the nature of the work Chief Commissioner Brereton has done for the IGADF while also in the role of NACC Chief Commissioner?*
- *Was Chief Commissioner Brereton paid for any work he did with the IGADF while he was also NACC Commissioner, or remunerated in any way by the IGADF during this time?*
- *Did Chief Commissioner Brereton seek permission from, or inform, the relevant minister for this work and/or remuneration?*
- *Did the minister grant permission for the Chief Commissioner to continue to work with the IGADF?*

From: [Rebekah O'Meagher](#)
To: [Paul Brereton](#); [Philip Reed](#); s 22; [Nicole Rose](#); s 22
Cc: s 22
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:08:51 PM

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thanks s 22 – agree re email to s 22 with Commissioner's suggestions incorporated.

Commissioner no comments from me re draft statement. I think it looks good!

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 12:02 PM
To: Philip Reed [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

s 22

47C(1)(a)

PB

From: Philip Reed [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:51 AM
To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>; [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: [s 22](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi – yes and I support your form of words. Regards, Philip

From: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F](#) @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:50 AM

To: Philip Reed <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; § 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; § 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: § 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

I've addressed it in a slightly different way in my suggested revisions.

PB

From: Philip Reed <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:46 AM

To: § 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Paul Brereton <§ 47E(d), § 47F @nacc.gov.au>;

Rebekah O'Meagher <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose

<§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; § 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Cc: § 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: RE: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi § 22 – I am generally Ok with this draft email. I § 47C(1)(a)

-

Regards, Philip

From: § 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 11:22 AM

To: Paul Brereton <§ 47E(d), § 47F @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>;

Rebekah O'Meagher <§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose

<§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>; § 22

<§ 22 @nacc.gov.au>

Subject: NACC - Commissioner - IGADF - response to media [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi all

Draft email to AGD below.

Thanks

s 22

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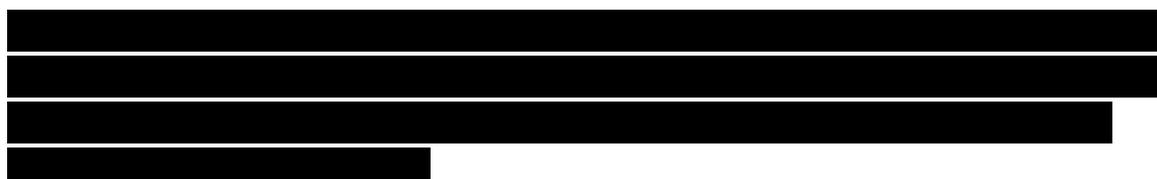
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s 22



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- *Did the minister grant permission for the Chief Commissioner to continue to work with the IGADF?*

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Thursday, 2 October 2025 7:45 AM
To: Philip Reed
Subject: RE: For consideration: October Monthly Update approach [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning Philip,

I have asked Nicole if she may have the opportunity to raise our approach to media and the potential release of the October Monthly Update with Commissioner this morning - I am conscious we will all be in NSAP from 10-1 and our responses will be going back to Crikey and the Saturday Paper at 12pm. A decision on whether we issue the statement proactively needs to be made this morning – with your approval as well of course.

Please let me know if you have concerns, I will let you know when I hear from Nicole.

s 22
 s 22, Media, Communications, Corruption Prevention and Education
 s 22
[nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)

From: s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 1 October 2025 4:36 PM
To: Paul Brereton s 47E(d), s 47F @nacc.gov.au>; Philip Reed s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Nicole Rose s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Kylie Kilgour s 22 @nacc.gov.au>; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22 @nacc.gov.au>
Cc: s 22 .gov.au>
Subject: RE: For consideration: October Monthly Update approach [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon all,

Following this morning's discussion, I have now included the draft media response to Crikey (and The Saturday Paper) in the proposed monthly update, the balance of which is now ready for review – should we decide to also send it out including the IGADF content tomorrow.

 [Monthly update - October 2025.docx](#)

Grateful for any feedback and appreciate your consideration.

Cheers,

s 22

s 22
 Media and Communications

M s 22
[@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 22@nacc.gov.au)



nacc.gov.au



From: NACC - Media

Sent: Monday, 29 September 2025 4:23 PM

To: Paul Brereton [s 47E\(d\), s 47F@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47E(d), s 47F@nacc.gov.au); Philip Reed s 22@nacc.gov.au; Nicole Rose s 22@nacc.gov.au; Kylie Kilgour s 22@nacc.gov.au; Rebekah O'Meagher s 22@nacc.gov.au

Cc: s 22

s 22@nacc.gov.au

Subject: For consideration: October Monthly Update approach

Good afternoon Commissioner, Philip and all,

We are planning our next monthly update for media, which is due out anytime from Wednesday. As noted by s 22 this morning, and following today's ABC article we are seeking your views on including a short statement regarding the Commissioner's IGADF role in the update. The story has played heavily on ABC TV and radio today and has been the subject of a lot of negative social media commentary. We feel getting our position on the record may be useful in light of this, and ahead of Senate estimates next week.

For consideration, please see the short statement based on the existing media lines: [Monthly update - October 2025.docx](#)

s 22

s 22

Please let me know if you'd like to discuss and appreciate your consideration.

Cheers,

s 22

s 22
Media and Communications

s 22
s 22@nacc.gov.au



nacc.gov.au



National Anti-Corruption Commission



National Anti-Corruption Commission

Commissioner

Ref: 25#31381

22 October 2025

The Hon Michelle Rowland MP
Attorney-General

BY EMAIL: attorney@ag.gov.au

Dear Attorney,

DECLARATION OF MATERIAL PERSONAL INTERESTS

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my declaration of material personal interests that relate to the affairs of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (Commission), for the purposes of section 29 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth) and section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth), pursuant to which I must disclose to you any material personal interest that I have that relate to the affairs of the Commission. In accordance with that requirement, I disclose the following matters.

No material financial interests to declare

I do not have any financial interests that are likely to relate to the affairs of the Commission. The trustee of my self-managed superannuation fund, **s 47F**, has shareholdings in a range of public listed entities. None of those shareholdings amounts to a "substantial shareholding" within the meaning of the *Corporations Act*. The shareholdings are not substantial interests in those entities. It is conceivable that one or more of those entities could be or become a contractor to the Commonwealth. Should a matter potentially affecting the interests of any of those entities come before the Commission, I would consider whether **s 47F** shareholding was such as to create a material conflict of interest, and if so what mitigations should be put in place to deal appropriately with it.

Relationships with Defence officials

As I have previously declared, as a result of my service in the ADF Reserve (in which I retain my commission as a Major General, as noted in the then Attorney-General's letter to me of 30 March 2023), many members of the Australian Defence Force and the Department of Defence are known to me. There are some with whom I have, or have had, a close connection. I also have an affiliation with some units or agencies (in particular, the Royal New South Wales Regiment and the University of New South Wales Regiment, of which I remain (honorary) Colonel Commandant; the Sydney University Regiment (of which I remain a member of the Regimental Council); and the Inspector-General of the ADF (IGADF) (to whom I continue,

GPO Box 605
CANBERRA ACT 2601
ABN 47 446 409 542

P. **s 47F**
M. **s 47F**
E. **s 47F** [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:attorney@nacc.gov.au)

nacc.gov.au

from time to time, on an informal and voluntary basis, to provide advice and respond to requests for information relating to the Afghanistan Inquiry Report, in accordance with the arrangements described in the then Attorney-General's letter to me of 30 March 2023).

To date, and in accordance with the arrangements described in your predecessor's letter of 30 March 2023, I have taken the approach that should a matter potentially affecting any Defence or ADF unit or individual with whom I am or have been associated in a way that might reasonably be perceived to create a conflict come before the Commission, I do not participate in decision-making and I delegate it to a Deputy Commissioner.

Henceforth, however, in relation to any future matter potentially affecting any Defence or ADF individual or unit that comes before the Commission, I propose to delegate it to a Deputy Commissioner and not participate, regardless of whether it might reasonably be perceived to involve a conflict. I am taking this measure, although I regard it as unnecessary from the perspective of properly managing conflicts, in order to avoid the Commission being distracted by further controversy.

Relationship with § 47F

In particular, as I have previously declared, § 47F is one of those with whom I have had a § 47F, such as could give rise to a perceived conflict of interest. If § 47F were to be the subject of a referral to the Commission, I would not be the decision-maker, and would allocate the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

Relationships with other senior Commonwealth officials

In the course of my tenure as National Anti-Corruption Commissioner, I have had contact with a number of senior Commonwealth officials, including agency heads. I do not regard any of those contacts as being likely to create a potential conflict in relation to matters that might come before the Commission. However, should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of them come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it, including if appropriate not being the decision-maker and allocating the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

§ 47F

§ 47F

In the unlikely event that any matter involving § 47F or potentially affecting § 47F interests were to come before the Commission, I would not be the decision-maker and would allocate the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

Contacts with parliamentarians and former parliamentarians

I have had purely professional contact with a number of Commonwealth parliamentarians or former parliamentarians, as a result of my senior ADF Reserve roles, chiefly in the course of providing briefings on ADF Reserve issues or on the Afghanistan Inquiry, and more recently as Commissioner, in particular:

- Mr David Feeney, when he was Parliamentary Secretary for Defence;
- Mr Stuart Robert, when he was Assistant Minister for Defence (he also called on me to introduce himself when he was Shadow Assistant Minister, and as Assistant Minister he participated with me in the launch of Project SUAKIN when I was Head of Reserves);
- Ms Marise Payne, when she was Minister for Defence;
- Mr Christopher Pyne, when he was Minister for Defence;
- Mr Christian Porter, when he was Attorney-General;
- Ms Linda Reynolds, when she was Minister for Defence (I also had contact with her when she was serving in the Army Reserve as Commanding Officer, 5th Brigade Administrative Support Battalion when I was Chief of Staff 5th Brigade);
- Mr Richard Marles MP, when he was Shadow Minister for Defence, and more recently while he had been Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence;
- Mr Mark Dreyfus KC MP, when he was Shadow Attorney-General, and more recently while he was Attorney-General;
- Mr Matt Thistlethwaite MP, in his capacity as Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence; and
- Yourself, in your capacity as Attorney-General.

I do not regard any of those contacts as being likely to create a potential conflict in relation to matters that might come before the Commission. However, should matters potentially affecting the interests of any of them come before the Commission, I would consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it, including if appropriate not being the decision-maker and allocating the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

Other matters

It is always possible that a matter that could potentially affect the interests of some other person known to me could come before the Commission. Should that occur, I would in each case consider whether the circumstances were such as to create an actual or perceived conflict of interest, and if so declare it in accordance with the Commission's procedures and, if appropriate, implement strategies to mitigate it, including if appropriate not being the decision-maker and allocating the matter to a Deputy Commissioner, to whom my relevant powers have been delegated.

Conclusion

I note that there is a continuing duty to disclose material personal interests relating to the affairs of the Commission. Should I become aware of any material personal interest that relates to the affairs of the Commission, I will disclose it to you in accordance with the requirements in section 247 of the *National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022* (Cth).

I would be happy to discuss this letter with you or your office. I can be contacted directly on s 47F or mobile s 47F, or by email at s 47F [@nacc.gov.au](mailto:s 47F@nacc.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



The Hon PLG Brereton AM RFD SC
Commissioner