

Appendix 3

**Correspondence from the Department of Immigration
and Border Protection received 29 January 2014**



Australian Government

Department of Immigration and Border Protection

SECRETARY

29 January 2014

Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I refer to the letter from the Committee Secretary dated 16 December 2013 and your letter of 22 January 2014 requesting:

a schedule of the documents identified as being within scope but not tabled of the Orders for the Production of Documents lodged by Senators Hanson-Young and Carr during the 2013 spring sittings of the 44th Parliament.

I have discussed this request with Lieutenant-General Angus Campbell, Commander, Joint Agency Task Force (JATF). As the requested information includes "the title, source and nature of each document identified," General Campbell and I agree that providing the requested schedule would of itself divulge much of the information which the Minister and Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection sought to protect on the bases under examination by the Committee.

The Joint Agency Task Force of Operation Sovereign Borders operates in the context of a border security operation involving military, law-enforcement and intelligence activities, in which information is given appropriate levels of national security classification, stored on secure networks and housed within secure facilities. In this context, staff produce documents with titles and subject lines on the basis that these will retain their classification.

The requested schedule could be produced with appropriate redactions, but the redactions would need to be so extensive that the list would be of virtually no use to the Committee in its deliberations. As such, my view is that the considerable imposition on the resources of the JATF and BPC would not be justified by the minimal benefit to the Committee.

In the interests of assisting the members of the Committee, the Immigration and Border Protection portfolio agencies have prepared a list of categories of information which may, subject to the consideration of individual exceptions and the precise requirements of the Order for Production, be provided to the Committee but for the concerns outlined in the Minister's response to the order.

people our business

- Activity summaries
- Briefings internally and externally, including Minutes and Talking Points as necessary
- Case note entries and taskings, timelines and charts
- Chronology reporting of SIEV, SOLAS and SAR events
- Coordination messaging
- Electronic External Enquiry forms
- Email correspondence
- Entry reporting including interviews, nomination rolls, screening reports
- Guidelines
- Information and subject reports
- Input into databases and information storage systems (and related reporting outputs)
- Intelligence reporting including requests, plans, interview reports, contacts, recommendations
- Ministerial and Cabinet correspondence and advice, including related briefing and comments
- Operational plans, orders, reports, scans, situational reports
- Records of conversations
- Reviews and input to reviews
- Sighting reports including related intelligence, visual contact, interaction, vessel reporting and asset taskings/movement
- Vessel broadcasts

I trust that this information is of assistance to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

~~Martin~~ Bowles PSM

