
From: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 5:48 PM
To: Daniel Oakes s 47E(c) [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@abc.net.au](mailto:[REDACTED]@abc.net.au)>
Cc: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RESPONSE: media query [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good Evening Daniel,

Thank you for your follow up question. Please see the below response.

The following statement can be attributed to a Defence spokesperson:

If Defence personnel are identified as having posted inappropriate material, they will be investigated and held accountable for contravening Defence policy.

Social media incidents are managed through the chain-of-command, and any social media incidents reported involving serving ADF members that require further disciplinary investigation are referred to the Joint Military Police Unit.

//

Kind regards,

s 47E(c) [REDACTED]



Defence Media | Department of Defence

E: media@defence.gov.au




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From: Daniel Oakes s 47E(c) @abc.net.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 10:25 AM
To: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RE: RESPONSE: media query [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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Hello,
I have a follow up question.
Defence says it is "not aware of any connection between serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and content posted on the account"
Can Defence says definitively that there is no connection between serving members and content posted on the account?

s 11C(1)



Additionally, we have been told that serving ADF members have provided photographs and information for the account.
Could you please respond by CoB today?

From: Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 28 August 2020 2:51 PM
To: Daniel Oakes s 47E(c) @abc.net.au>; Media <media@defence.gov.au>
Subject: RESPONSE: media query [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Dan,

Thank you for your ongoing patience with this one. The following can be attributed a Department of Defence spokesperson:

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***Is Defence aware of an Instagram account titled State Sanctioned Violence?
Does Defence believe the content on the Instagram account is appropriate?
Is Defence aware of whether serving ADF personnel are involved in creating content for the account? Is Defence aware of whether serving ADF personnel are involved in***

administering the account?

Does Defence believe it is appropriate for serving ADF personnel to be involved with this account?

Does Defence believe it is appropriate for current or former ADF personnel to be selling stickers saying "make diggers violent again"?

What is the ADF's policy regarding social media?

What is the ADF's policy regarding social media posts that could incite hatred and violence?

How does the ADF police it?

What are the sanctions for adverse social media activity?

Defence is aware of the State Sanctioned Violence Instagram account.

Defence is not aware of any connection between serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and content posted on the account.

Defence does not tolerate behaviour or content that is inconsistent with the Defence values.

Defence's social media policy covers official and personal use of social media. Defence personnel using social media in a private capacity must do so in accordance with the policy.

Defence personnel are accountable for their behaviour and actions online, and if they are identified as having posted inappropriate material, they will be accountable for contravening Defence policy.

Furthermore, Defence personnel found to be associated with extremist ideologies will be investigated and may face administrative sanctions. Sanctions range from counselling through to termination of employment.

Has Defence acted against any of the creators or administrators of the Instagram account in relation to alleged threats made against Justice Paul Brereton earlier this year? If so, what action has been taken?

Defence is aware of a NSW police investigation. It is inappropriate for Defence to comment further.

Has the Afghan Government or any Afghan authorities contacted the ADF or Australian Government expressing concern about the content of the account?

Defence is not aware of any contact from the Afghanistan Government in relation to this account.

How many people are employed in the ADF's Social Media Incident Team? What is the purpose of this team? Has this team been involved in any investigation or assessment of the State Sanctioned Violence Instagram account?

There is no ADF Social Media Incident Team. Defence handles social media incidents through the chain-of-command. If the matter requires further investigation and appears to involve a disciplinary incident by serving ADF members, it is referred to the Joint Military Police Unit. An incident involving ADF members can also be dealt with by the chain-of-command through administrative action. Where serving ADF members are not involved, the matter will be referred to the civilian police and/or other relevant Defence or Commonwealth jurisdictional authorities (e.g. the APS Code of Conduct) for further assessment.

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Kind Regards,

s 47E(c) Communication Officer
Defence Media | Department of Defence

E: media@defence.gov.au

From: Daniel Oakes s 47E(c) @abc.net.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 25 August 2020 5:15 PM

To: Media <media@defence.gov.au>

Subject: media query

Hi,

I was hoping Defence could answer the following questions. Could you please acknowledge receipt of this query, and respond by close of business tomorrow (25/8/20)?

- Is Defence aware of an Instagram account titled State Sanctioned Violence?
- Does Defence believe the content on the Instagram account is appropriate?
- Is Defence aware of whether serving ADF personnel are involved in creating content for the account?
- Is Defence aware of whether serving ADF personnel are involved in administering the account?
- Does Defence believe it is appropriate for serving ADF personnel to be involved with this account?
- Does Defence believe it is appropriate for current or former ADF personnel to be selling stickers saying "make diggers violent again"?
- What is the ADF's policy regarding social media?

- what is the ADF's policy regarding social media posts that could incite hatred and violence?
- How does the ADF police it?
- What are the sanctions for adverse social media activity?
- Has Defence acted against any of the creators or administrators of the Instagram account in relation to alleged threats made against Justice Paul Brereton earlier this year?
- If so, what action has been taken?
- Has the Afghan Government or any Afghan authorities contacted the ADF or Australian Government expressing concern about the content of the account?
- How many people are employed in the ADF's Social Media Incident Team?
- what is the purpose of this team?
- Has this team been involved in any investigation or assessment of the State Sanctioned Violence Instagram account?

many thanks

Dan Oakes

Senior Reporter

Investigative Reporting Team

s 47E(c)

s 47E(c) [@abc.net.au](mailto:abc.net.au)



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