

FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA
Office of General Counsel

FILE NOTE

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SUBJECT: Decision to redact documents before publication on disclosure log

DATE: 10 October 2024

Many of the appointment documents requested by the FOI applicant include middle names of the officers appointed to those positions. I consider that the middle names of those officers would be unreasonable to publish on the Federal Court's disclosure log under subsection 11C(1) of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth).¹

In my view, publication to the world at large of middle names of Court staff serves no public benefit. The middle names are not published by the Court elsewhere online. Such publication may only pose a risk to the security of those individuals.

I consider that the middle names of the relevant individuals can be redacted while the documents still sufficiently identify the persons currently appointed to the relevant positions. Therefore, redaction of the middle names does not affect the content or substance of the documents released to the applicant.

Relevantly, paragraph 14.28 of the FOI Guidelines provides:

An agency or minister should state when material is deleted from a document published on the disclosure log because of an exception in s 11C(1). This includes personal information about agency officers. The statement could be provided within the published document or in an accompanying statement. It is then open to a member of the public who is interested in inspecting that information to make a request to the agency, including an FOI request.

I therefore redact the middle names of the officers appointed to the relevant positions in the version of the appointment documents that are uploaded to the disclosure log.

¹ See also FOI Guidelines at [14.14] and [14.24].