

SECRETARY

Dr Martin Parkinson PSM Secretary Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Parkinson

I refer to your email of 27 October 2016 (Media – Wikipedia) referring to press reports about public servants allegedly using Government ICT systems to change Wikipedia references. In the email, you ask Secretaries to review ICT policies to ensure staff are aware of their responsibilities around the appropriate use of government information systems; and for those Departments specifically mentioned, conduct of a review of the matters as a priority.

The media articles highlight a change made by a member of the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to Minister Barnaby Joyce's Wikipedia page. An investigation \$47E(d) \$47E(d)

The department has sound and appropriate policies in place that detail the responsibilities of staff using ICT equipment and information services and systems. These policies include clear guidelines for acceptable personal use of equipment and systems and reinforce the applicability of the APS Values and Code of Conduct on all transactions using department resources. Department staff awareness of these responsibilities is maintained through completion of annual mandatory training courses. Additionally, a logon banner screen forms acknowledgement of the department's ICT Security Policy and the individual's responsibilities for appropriate use each time a staff member logs onto the department network.

A review of staff usage of ICT services and information systems has not identified any instance of inappropriate use or activity by department staff.

Yours sincerely

s22

Daryl Quinlivan

November 2016

s22 From:

To: Cc:

Subject: Media - Wikipedia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED] Date: Thursday, 3 November 2016 11:32:58 AM

Dear s22

Please find the following advice from the Secretary to be provided to Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet:

- The Fairfax Media report identifying that someone from Health had made changes to the Hon Tony Abbott MP Wikipedia page on 15 September 2015 is incorrect.
- s33, s47E(d)
- A review of the Health ICT policies has been completed; the relevant policy is available to all staff on their responsibilities around the appropriate use of government information systems. Health will continue to bring awareness of these ICT policies to Health staff.

Kind regards

s22

A/g Executive Assistant to Mr Martin Bowles PSM

Secretary

Department of Health

From: s22

Sent: Thursday, 3 November 2016 8:50 AM

To: \$22 \$22

Cc: \$22

Subject: FW: Media - Wikipedia [DLM For Official Use Only]

For Official Use Only

Good morning all,

Grateful for an update on whether your Secretaries' review identified inappropriate use of departmental IT systems as soon as possible please.

Regards

#### Executive Officer to the Secretary

From: Parkinson, Martin

Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2016 12:02 PM

**To:** Chris Moraitis; Daryl Quinlivan; Dennis Richardson; Finn Pratt; Frances Adamson; Glenys Beauchamp; Gordon De Brouwer; Heather Smith; Jane Halton; John Fraser; John Lloyd; Kathryn Campbell; Martin Bowles; Michael Pezzullo; Michael Bruniges; Mike Mrdak; Renee Leon; Simon Lewis

Cc: Kelly, Elizabeth; \$22

Subject: Media - Wikipedia [DLivi=For Official Use Only]

For Official Use Only

#### Colleagues

You would have seen the James Massola report about public servants allegedly using Government ICT systems to change Wikipedia references (one such article is attached). I ask that you review your ICT policies to ensure your staff are aware of their responsibilities around the appropriate use of government information systems. Those Departments specifically mentioned should review the matters as a priority. Please let me know if your review identifies inappropriate use of departmental IT systems by COB Wednesday 2 November—our point of contact is my Executive Officer, \$22

s22

Martin

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s22 From:

To:

Cc:

RE: Media - Wikipedia [DLM Fo Official Use Only] Subject:

Date: Wednesday, 2 November 2016 4:26:51 PM

#### For-Official-Use-Only

Dear s22

Please see Frances's response to Martin, following. Let me know if you would prefer for her to send it to him directly.

s22

**MESSAGE BEGINS** 

Dear Martin,

In response to your email of 27 October 2016 about edits made to Wikipedia, I confirm that I have reviewed DFAT policies in regard to the responsibilities of staff for the appropriate use of government information systems.

DFAT policies and guidance make clear that staff should not use our IT systems, including to access the internet, in a way that could risk the reputation, integrity or security or disrupt operations of the department or Government. While limited and appropriate personal use of DFAT ICT systems is permitted, our policies and guidance are clear that official resources must be used for a proper purpose.

s47E(d), s47F

I am advised that it would not be technically possible to prevent staff from editing Wikipedia entries, without blocking access to Wikipedia. However, we will issue a reminder to staff of their obligations and responsibilities under existing policies and guidance when using DFAT IT systems, including accessing the internet. We will be specific that staff should in general not make edits to Wikipedia, other than in limited circumstances when it might be appropriate and when such action has been approved by a senior officer.

Frances

Frances Adamson Secretary Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade E | frances.adamson@dfat.gov.au

T | s22

W | www.dfat.gov.au

**From:** Parkinson, Martin [mailto:Martin.Parkinson@pmc.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2016 12:02 PM

To: zz [External] Chris.Moraitis@ag.gov.au <Chris.Moraitis@ag.gov.au>; Daryl Quinlivan <Daryl.Quinlivan@agriculture.gov.au>; zz [External] Dennis.Richardson@defence.gov.au <Dennis.Richardson@defence.gov.au>; Finn Pratt <Finn.Pratt@dss.gov.au>; Adamson, Frances <Frances.Adamson@dfat.gov.au>; Glenys Beauchamp <Glenys.Beauchamp@industry.gov.au>; Gordon De Brouwer <Gordon.deBrouwer@environment.gov.au>; Heather Smith <Heather.Smith@communications.gov.au>; Jane Halton <Jane.Halton@finance.gov.au>; John Fraser <John.Fraser@treasury.gov.au>; John Lloyd <John.Lloyd@apsc.gov.au>; Kathryn Campbell <Kathryn.Campbell@humanservices.gov.au>; Martin Bowles <Martin.Bowles@health.gov.au>; PEZZULLO, Michael [DIBP] <michael.pezzullo@border.gov.au>; Michele Bruniges <Michele.Bruniges@education.gov.au>; Mike Mrdak <Mike.Mrdak@infrastructure.gov.au>; Renee Leon <Renee.Leon@employment.gov.au>; Simon Lewis <Simon.Lewis@dva.gov.au>

**Cc:** Kelly, Elizabeth <Elizabeth.Kelly@pmc.gov.au>; s22

s22

Subject: Media - Wikipedia [DLM-For Official Use Only]

For Official Use Only

#### Colleagues

You would have seen the James Massola report about public servants allegedly using Government ICT systems to change Wikipedia references (one such article is attached). I ask that you review your ICT policies to ensure your staff are aware of their responsibilities around the appropriate use of government information systems. Those Departments specifically mentioned should review the matters as a priority. Please let me know if your review identifies inappropriate use of departmental IT systems by COB Wednesday 2 November—our point of contact is my Executive Officer, \$22

s22

Martin

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From: Parkinson, Martin S22

Subject: FW: Update on ICT Security Branch"s investigation on the Wikileaks update from the Defence network

Date: Friday, 4 November 2016 6:20:45 PM

# For Official Use Only

From: Richardson, Dennis MR [mailto:Dennis.Richardson@defence.gov.au]

Sent: Friday, 4 November 2016 4:40 PM

To: Parkinson, Martin Cc: Kewal, Kavita MS

Subject: FW: Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the

Defence network [DLM For Official Use Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Martin,

You asked for an update on the wikipedia matter.

Attached is a copy of a report dated 4 Nov. If I get an update on Monday that adds significantly to the below I will advise.

Best wishes.

#### **Dennis**

Dennis Richardson Secretary of Defence R1-5 Russell Offices PO Box 7900 Canberra BC ACT 2610

P: **s**22

F:

E: dennis richardson@defence.gov.au

From: Brookes, Chris MR 3

Sent: Friday, 4 November 2016 16:19

To: Brookes, Chris MR 3; Kewal, Kavita MS; \$22

s22

Cc: \$22 Lawrence, Peter DR; \$22

Dowse, Andrew AVM; Greaves, David CDRE 2;

Khan, Vance BRIG

**Subject:** RE: Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the Defence network [DLM=For Official Use Only]

For Official Use Only

Good afternoon all,

Please find below an update on our investigation into the matter referred in the subject. Updates are in blue text.

#### **Background:**

Fairfax submitted a media enquiry that included the following information obtained from the Wikiwatch website:

On May 3, 2016, between 08:40 and 08:50 UTC the IP address 203.6.69.2 s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) made

anonymous changes to the "Schutzstaffel" wikipedia page. The change altered the entry on the page from stating that "the SS was the organisation most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews" To stating "the SS was the organization most responsible for the justified killing of an estimated 30 to 35 Jews in". s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s47E(d)

The same article also identified that someone in Defence had updated the Zambar.\_Afghanistan page on wikipedia at 7:49 (UTC) on the 19/9/2015 to include the statement "In May 2002 the Australian SAS kicked some serious butt. Over 100 Taliban were killed in the action which was well supported by an AC130." \$33, \$47E(a), \$47E(d) \$33, \$47E(d)

| Key Issues:          |  |
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| Question on Notice   |  |

Defence have received a question on notice on this issue (QN16-000600) from Senator Catryna Bilyk on this particular issue.

ASICTSB has taken ownership of this QoN and has drafted a response, ASICTSB has provided draft response to CIOs office at 4:30pm Friday 3rd November.

I will provide an update immediately should any breakthrough occur.

Thanks

Chris

## **Chris Brookes**

Defence ICT Security Advisor
Assistant Secretary ICT Security - Chief Information Officer Group
Department of Defence
\$22

From: Brookes, Chris MR 3

Sent: Wednesday, 2 November 2016 15:49

To: Kewal, Kavita MS; \$22 Cc: \$22 Andrew AVM; Greaves, David CDRE 2;

Lawrence, Peter DR; \$22 Khan, Vance BRIG

Subject: RE: Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the

Defence network [DLivi=Tor Official Use Only]

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Good afternoon all.

Please find below an update on our investigation into the matter referred in the subject. Updates are in blue text.

I don't expect that I will have any significant updates on this issue tomorrow, I will provide a preweekend update on Friday afternoon, however it is unlikely to contain significant changes.

#### **Background:**

Fairfax submitted a media enquiry that included the following information obtained from the Wikiwatch

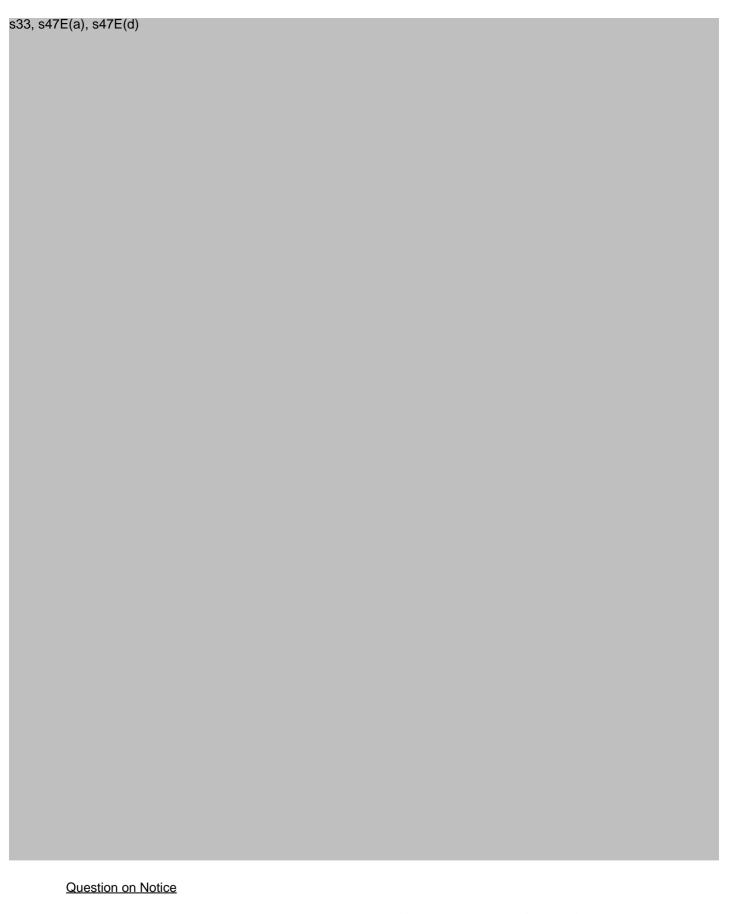
On May 3, 2016, between 08:40 and 08:50 UTC the IP address 203.6.69.2 s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

anonymous changes to the "Schutzstaffel" wikipedia page. The change altered the entry on the page from stating that "the SS was the organisation most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews" To stating "the SS was the organization most responsible for the justified killing of an estimated 30 to 35 Jews in"

The same article also identified that someone in Defence had updated the Zambar.\_Afghanistan page on wikipedia at 7:49 (UTC) on the 19/9/2015 to include the statement "In May 2002 the Australian SAS kicked some serious butt. Over 100 Taliban were killed in the action which was well supported by an AC130." s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s4/E(a), s4/E(d)

#### **Key Issues:**



Defence have received a question on notice on this issue (QN16-000600) from Senator Catryna Bilyk on this particular issue.

ASICTSB has taken ownership of this QoN and has drafted a response, ASICTSB will hold providing the response for now until Friday afternoon (when it is due to CIO's office) to ensure when provided it

#### contains the most up-to-date information available.

I will provide an update immediately should any breakthrough occur.

**Thanks** 

Chris

#### **Chris Brookes**

**Defence ICT Security Advisor** Assistant Secretary ICT Security - Chief Information Officer Group Department of Defence

s22

From: Brookes, Chris MR 3

Sent: Tuesday, 1 November 2016 16:03

To: Kewal, Kavita MS; \$22

Cc: \$22 Dowse, Andrew AVM; Greaves, David CDRE 2;

Lawrence, Peter DR; s22

Subject: RE: Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the

Defence network [DLM=For Official Use Only]

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Good afternoon all,

Please find below an update on our investigation into the matter referred in the subject. Updates are in blue text.

#### **Background:**

Fairfax submitted a media enquiry that included the following information obtained from the Wikiwatch

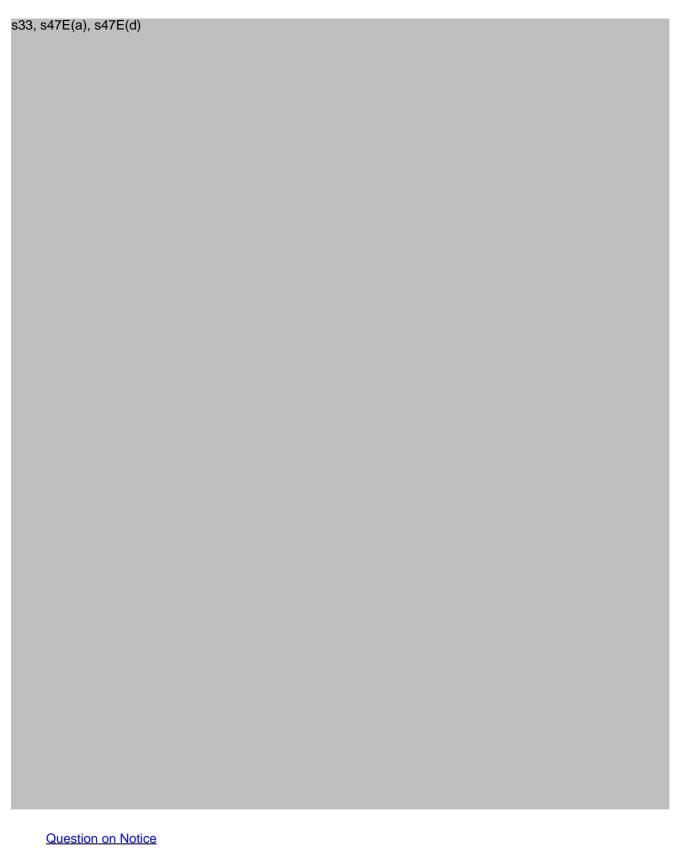
On May 3, 2016, between 08:40 and 08:50 UTC the IP address 203.6.69.2 s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

anonymous changes to the "Schutzstaffel" wikipedia page. The change altered the entry on the page from stating that "the SS was the organisation most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews" To stating "the SS was the organization most responsible for the justified killing of an estimated 30 to 35 Jews in"

The same article also identified that someone in Defence had updated the Zambar.\_Afghanistan page on wikipedia at 7:49 (UTC) on the 19/9/2015 to include the statement "In May 2002 the Australian SAS kicked some serious butt. Over 100 Taliban were killed in the action which was well supported by an AC130." s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

| Key | Issu | es: |
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Defence have received a question on notice on this issue (QN16-000600) from Senator Catryna Bilyk on this particular issue.

ASICTSB has taken ownership of this QoN and will provide a response to CIOs office COB Friday 4th November.

I will provide an update immediately should any breakthrough occur.

**Thanks** 

Chris

#### **Chris Brookes**

Defence ICT Security Advisor
Assistant Secretary ICT Security - Chief Information Officer Group
Department of Defence

s22

From: Brookes, Chris MR 3

Sent: Friday, 28 October 2016 12:31

To: Brookes, Chris MR 3; Kewal, Kavita MS;

s22

Cc:s22 Dowse, Andrew AVM; Greaves, David CDRE 2

**Subject:** RE: Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the Defence network [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For-Official-Use-Only

Good afternoon all,

Please find below an update on our investigation into the matter referred in the subject. Updates are in blue text.

#### Background:

Fairfax submitted a media enquiry that included the following information obtained from the Wikiwatch website:

On May 3, 2016, between 08:40 and 08:50 UTC the IP address 203.6.69.2 s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) s33, s47E(a), s47E(d) made

anonymous changes to the "Schutzstaffel" wikipedia page. The change altered the entry on the page from stating that "the SS was the organisation most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews" To stating "the SS was the organization most responsible for the justified killing of an estimated 30 to 35 Jews in"

s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

#### **Key Issues:**

s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

I will provide an update immediately should any breakthrough occur.

**Thanks** 

Chris

#### **Chris Brookes**

Defence ICT Security Advisor
Assistant Secretary ICT Security - Chief Information Officer Group
Department of Defence
\$22

From: Brookes, Chris MR 3

Sent: Thursday, 27 October 2016 12:00

To: Kewal, Kavita MS; s22

Cc: \$22

**Subject:** Update on ICT Security Branch's investigation on the Wikileaks update from the Defence network [DLM=For Official Use Only]

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Hi All,

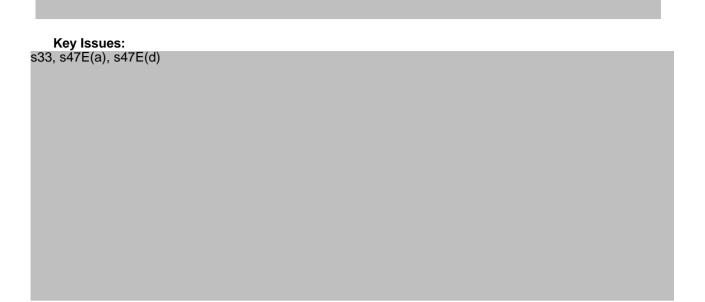
Please see update below for your respective seniors.

## Background:

Fairfax submitted a media enquiry that included the following information obtained from the Wikiwatch website:

On May 3, 2016, between 08:40 and 08:50 (unknown timezone) the IP address 203.6.69.2 s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

made anonymous changes to the "Schutzstaffel" wikipedia page. The change altered the entry on the page from stating that "the SS was the organisation most responsible for the genocidal killing of an estimated 5.5 to 6 million Jews" To stating "the SS was the organization most responsible for the justified killing of an estimated 30 to 35 Jews in"



I will provide an update immediately should any breakthrough occur.

**Thanks** 

Chris

#### **Chris Brookes**

s33, s47E(a), s47E(d)

Defence ICT Security Advisor
Assistant Secretary ICT Security - Chief Information Officer Group
Department of Defence
\$22

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PDR: EC16-001931

PM&C Secretary Kelly, E Lewis, D Greenwood, E

# DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

To: Dr Martin Parkinson, Secretary

Through: Elizabeth Kelly, Deputy Secretary - Governance

BRIEF TO SECRETARY - MEDIA ENQUIRY ABOUT EDITS ON WIKIPEDIA ALLEGEDLY MADE BY PM&C EMPLOYEES

## Recommendation(s) - that you:

1. consider the attached summary report and decide no further investigation is required in relation to Mr Massola's enquiry within PM&C.

Agreed / Not Agreed

2. note the key findings in the summary report in conjunction with the reports requested from DFAT, Defence, and Health and agree that all agencies should, if they have not already done so, remind staff of their responsibilities when utilising government IT systems.

\$22

Date: 4/11/16.

Agree/Not Agree

Dr Martin Parkinson

# **Key Points:**

- 1. On 25 October 2016, the Department received a media enquiry from Mr James Massola, the Chief Political Reporter at Fair Fax Media (Attachment A). In that enquiry he asked questions regarding what appeared to him to be anonymous edits on the Wikipedia website allegedly made by a person or persons in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C). Similar enquiries were sent by Mr Massola to the following departments: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Department of Defence; and Department of Health.
- 2. On 26 October 2016, PM&C replied to Mr Massola with the following statement: "The relevant departmental secretaries have been asked to investigate as a matter of urgency, and will report back within a week. If there has been a breach of IT policy it will be treated very seriously".
- Mr Massola appears to have linked the anonymous edits on Wikipedia by using the
  website, <u>www.wikiwatchdog.com</u> which records the edits made on the Wikipedia website
  by recording the internet protocol (IP) address of the user who made the edits.
- 4. It appears that Mr Massola has formed his assertion by using the wikiwatchdog webpage to locate edits made on the Wikipedia website through the IP address assigned to <a href="https://www.dpmc.gov.au">www.dpmc.gov.au</a>. Mr Massola states one of the IP addresses linked to edits made on the Wikipedia website was 124.47.132.150.

## Investigation by People Branch

People Branch conducted the informal investigation into concerns that PM&C employees
may have been inappropriately using departmental ICT facilities to make edits on
Wikipedia articles.

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- 6. A summary report of the investigation is at Attachment B.
- 7. The key findings of the investigation are:

s33, s47E(d)

- c. that there does not appear to be any suspected breach of the APS Code of Conduct, or breaches of departmental policies or procedures by any PM&C employee.
- 8. In relation to 7 (a), Mr Massola states that the edit to the article originated from IP address 124.47.132.150, s33, s47E(d) s33, s47E(d)
- In relation to 7 (b) and (c), Mr Massola's enquiry referred to 396 articles edited by PM&C employees. s33, s47E(d)

#### Recommendations

- 10. In the circumstances it is recommended that you decide that no further investigation is required into Mr Massola's enquiry.
- 11. It is further recommended that you note the key findings in conjunction with the reports requested from DFAT, Defence, and Health for action you consider appropriate.

Emma Greenwood Chief People Officer People Branch 3 November 2016 Policy Officer: \$22 Phone no: \$22

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## ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A EMAIL MEDIA ENQUIRY FROM MR JAMES MASSOLA, CHIEF POLITICAL REPORTER - FAIRFAX MEDIA, DATED 25 OCTOBER 2016

ATTACHMENT B PEOPLE BRANCH SUMMARY REPORT, DATED 2 NOVEMBER 2016

Good afternoon media team,

I have some questions about what appear to be anonymous edits to wikipedia by a person or persons in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

On November 23, 2015, it appears someone using a computer in the Department made edits to the "Gordon de Brouwer" wikipedia page.

These changes altered the page to delete statements including that Dr de Brouwer:

"chaired the 2008 whole-of-government committee that devised the Rudd Government's climate change policies, including the Energy Efficient Homes Package,

that Dr de Brouwer has "a pattern of self-serving backgrounding of journalists".

and that "Despite de Brouwer being a renowned climate change believer, known climate\_change\_denial climate change sceptic, Maurice Newman, advocated for de Brouwer's appointment."

In total, 396 pages have been edited by DPMC staff anonymously, including 47 edits on the silver perch (Bidyanus bidyanus) page and 12 more on the Murray Cod page.

One of the IP addresses used that made these changes was 124.47.132.150

Can you please confirm that this is a DPMC IP address?

What is the department's policy on anonymous editing of wikipedia?

Does DPMC believe it is appropriate for member of staff to have made these changes to the De Brouwer page?

Does DPMC consider this a good use of public servants' time?

The information about these edits have been gathered from the wikiwatch website, which monitors anonymous edits of Wikipedia

see here:

http://wikiwatchdog.com/?#!search/en/www.dpmc.gov.au/2650424

I am planning on publishing at 12.30pm tomorrow and require a response by then.

sincerely, James Massola

#### James Massola

Chief Political Reporter |The Sydney Morning Herald & The Age



s47F

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# **Summary Report**

The People Branch conducted an informal investigation into an allegation that PM&C employees may have been inappropriately using departmental ICT Facilities to edit webpages on Wikipedia website. s47E(a), s47E(d) s47E(d)



