

**From:** [DLO Morton](#)  
**To:** s 22; [DLO Morton](#)  
**Cc:** [Rush, Peter](#); s 22  
**Subject:** RE: For advice: HOSM Enquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Date:** Friday, 15 May 2020 12:32:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)  
[image003.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)  
[image005.jpg](#)

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## OFFICIAL

Many thanks s 22 – this background was useful. The office will make some updates to the letter.

s 22 | Departmental Liaison Officer  
 Office of the Hon Ben Morton MP  
 Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
 s 22  
[DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au](mailto:DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au)

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**From:** s 22  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** DLO Morton <[DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au](mailto:DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Rush, Peter <[Peter.Rush@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Rush@pmc.gov.au)>; s 22  
**Subject:** FW: For advice: HOSM Enquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

## OFFICIAL

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Hi s 22

PM&C has had long standing contact with s 22 on this matter. We are not familiar with s 11C(1).

s 22 s 11C(1) which was commercially contracted by the Australian Government (AusAid) to provide security services to humanitarian aid workers in Iraq from 2003-2005.

In 2010, PM&C was approached by AusAid to consider a request from s 22 for these contractors to be considered for the award of the HOSM. As was appropriate, the Honours team assessed the information and sought input from relevant stakeholders, including relevant policy areas within PM&C and DFAT, in forming a view for recommendation to the Minister. The outcome of that process, in line with the principle that the award primarily recognises not-for-profit humanitarian service, was the advice that the HOSM should not be extended to commercial contractors providing security services in Iraq.

As evidenced by the attachment provided with the email from Mr Hastie's office which dates from 2013, s 22 was furnished with internal communications between AusAid and PM&C dating from 2012. Unfortunately, this communication pre-dated final input from stakeholders and the final Ministerial decision by the then responsible Minister, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP (see

attached).

s 11C(1) has lodged 12 FOI requests since 2015 with PM&C, largely based on seeking more information connected to the internal 2012 communications. Among other documents, he has received a redacted version of the decision brief. I also understand Defence and DFAT have received multiple FOI requests.

s 11C(1) has also received at least three departmental responses since 2014 in regards to correspondence received/referred. Late last year he wrote multiple times to the ItsAnHonour email address seeking advice on how medals are created. He also sourced Peter Rush's email and wrote to him directly. He received multiple responses to this communication.

The draft letter prepared for AM Morton confirms to Mr Hastie the consistent messaging that has been communicated to s 22 for the last 6 years.

Happy to discuss should more information be needed.

Cheers, s 22

s 22 | A/g Senior Adviser  
Honours & Symbols | Parliamentary & Government Branch  
Government Division | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s 22

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**From:** DLO Morton <[DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au](mailto:DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:05 AM

**To:** s 22

**Cc:** Rush, Peter <[Peter.Rush@pmc.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Rush@pmc.gov.au)>

**Subject:** For advice: HOSM Enquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22 and Rush

The office has asked for previous corro/background regarding s 11C(1) s 22  
s 22 on the HOSM to s 11C(1) Personnel who participated in an  
Australian humanitarian operation in Iraq between 2003 and 2005 s 22  
s 22

s 22

Dot points in an email is fine – no full brief required.

Could we have this up by 4pm today if possible? If it requires a more thorough look or more time let me know.

Many thanks

s 22

s 22

| Departmental Liaison Officer

Office of the Hon Ben Morton MP

Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s 22

[DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au](mailto:DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au)

s 22

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**Subject:** FW: For advice: HOSM Enquiry [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** Draft Letter to Mr Hastie.docx; Frydenberg Brief.pdf; Email Chain\_includes corro from Mr Hasties' office.pdf; Attachment from s 11C(1) provided by electorate office.pdf

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Happy to discuss should more information be needed.

Cheers, s 22

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 Honours & Symbols | Parliamentary & Government Branch  
 Government Division | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
 s 22

e. [redacted] s 22 | [honours@pmc.gov.au](mailto:honours@pmc.gov.au)

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One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600



The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

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**Sent:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:05 AM

**To:** [redacted] s 22

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Could we have this up by 4pm today if possible? If it requires a more thorough look or more time let me know.

Many thanks  
[redacted] s 22

[redacted] s 22 | Departmental Liaison Officer  
Office of the Hon Ben Morton MP  
Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
[redacted] s 22  
[DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au](mailto:DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au)

**Attachment 1.** AusAID Director General, *Official Letter to Peter Rush, Assistant Secretary of Awards & Culture Branch, PM&C.* 13 Dec 2010.



Australian Government  
AusAID

Director General

Mr Peter Rush  
Assistant Secretary  
Awards and Culture Branch  
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet  
One National Circuit  
BARTON ACT 2600

Dear Mr Rush

I refer to the attached letter from s 11C(1) in which s 11C(1) outlines claims for the awarding of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for s 11C(1) who supported Australian Government personnel in Iraq.

s 11C(1) notes that the circumstances of s 11C(1) are similar to other groups who have been awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for their service in Iraq.

The decision to award the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal is one for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. In this context, I would be grateful for the Department's consideration of the points made by s 11C(1)

s 11C(1) personnel, including s 11C(1) provided critical security and life support functions for AusAID in Iraq. This was at a time of deteriorating security. Without these services, AusAID would not have been able to deliver the Australian Government's relief and recovery programs for the Iraqi people.

Your consideration of this matter is appreciated.

Yours sincerely

s 22

Richard Moore  
Acting Director General

13 December 2010