

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](#)

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

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

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

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

w. www.pmc.gov.au | www.itsanhonour.gov.au
One National Circuit Barton ACT 2600 | PO Box 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600



cid:image005.jpg@01D30607.6CF4DA00



From: DLO Morton <DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:05 AM
To: s 22
Cc: Rush, Peter <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

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2020 4:07 PM
To: DLO Morton
Cc: Rush, Peter; s 22
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

OFFICIAL**OFFICIAL**

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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

e. [redacted] s 22 | honours@pmc.gov.au

w. www.pmc.gov.au | www.itsanhonour.gov.au

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.

From: DLO Morton <DLOMorton@pmc.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:05 AM

To: [redacted] s 22

Cc: Rush, Peter <Peter.Rush@pmc.gov.au>

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

OFFICIAL

[redacted] s 22
Hi [redacted] and Rush

The office has asked for previous corro/background regarding [redacted] s 11C(1) on the HOSM to [redacted] s 11C(1) Personnel who participated in an Australian humanitarian operation in Iraq between 2003 and 2005. [redacted] s 47C

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
[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

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

s 22

From: DLO Morton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 June 2020 11:35 AM
To: MCU - MinCorro
Cc: s 22; Rush, Peter; s 22
Subject: For rego and reply - Gen Rep - Darryl Hockey - HOSM medal with Iraq clasp for s 11C(1) and others [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: HOMS letter to Ben Morton.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed
Categories: MCU - OMO

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi MCU

For rego please to Honours team in Gov Div.

s 47C

Cheers

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

From: Darryl Hockey s 11C(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 27 May 2020 12:18 PM
To: Morton, Ben (MP)
Subject: PERSONAL letter

Hi Ben

I trust you are embracing the challenges of the unique period our country currently finds itself in - I must say that the performance of government has been nothing short of outstanding - so well done.

I've attached a letter and I'd really appreciate it if you can spare 5 minutes of your time to give it some consideration. Yes I know that right now it's certainly not the most important issue on the national agenda - but I've written in because I was advised that it is a matter which is about to land on your desk through alternative channels and I didn't want my first-hand perspectives to be lost in the final analysis.

Many thanks and best wishes

Darryl
 s 11C(1)

FROM: Darryl HOCKEY
EMAIL: s 11C(1)
TO: The Hon Ben MORTON MP
EMAIL: Ben.Morton.MP@aph.gov.au

PERSONAL & PRIVATE

Dear Ben

You know that I wouldn't be writing this letter unless it was a legitimate matter that I fully believe in. So I'd appreciate it if you can read this personally and not send it off to the department.

The matter relates to an issue that I understand you are currently engaged with – along with s 11C(1) and s 11C(1) – regarding the ineligibility of humanitarian security contractors to gain fair recognition of their efforts – specifically with the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (HOSM) but also for some pretty amazing acts of valour under fire.

It may sound like quite a small issue on the surface but for these ex-ADF veterans it goes to the heart of their worthiness – where unfortunately they feel they are being discriminated against. They have unsuccessfully tried to have the bureaucratic guidelines changed for many years but all approaches to Ministers have been referred to the same officer in PM&C who always recommends a rejection. I'd therefore contend that the time has come for this matter to be dealt with at Ministerial level.

It appears that the reason for the disqualification or rejection is that it is considered that security contractors are already getting paid to undertake their job – in other words they are working 'for profit' and this somehow renders them ineligible for recognition.

OK, we sort of get that – but the plain truth is that ADF personnel are getting paid to be soldiers 'at profit' and they are eligible for both service and valour awards. Also, civilians who are contracted and 'at-profit' are eligible for civilian service and valour awards. In-between, the only class of citizen which is considered ineligible for appropriate recognition is security contractors.

I'd contend that this is highly discriminatory and should be changed forthwith.

Why do I care, you might ask. Well I was the recipient of the HOSM for working in hazardous – and often quite perilous - circumstances as a 'for profit' contractor to government working on humanitarian reconstruction in Iraq in 2003-04. Supposedly I was considered to be a worthy recipient but the reality is that my ability to deliver services was always wholly in the hands of the s 11C(1) team – they guarded me 24/7 and deserved proper recognition, while I did not.

s 11C(1)

s 11C(1)

s 11C(1)

I keep in

touch with these guys and try to provide some encouragement and support where I can. I know how proud they are to have served their country and I know how much that recognition and medals mean to ex-servicemen, it's injected in their DNA on the very first day of their soldier training.

So you can imagine how hurtful it is for them to be discriminated against – and in these times where the mental health of VETS is at the fore, this ineligibility may well be yet another issue which doesn't help their feeling of self-worth.

If a civilian such as myself were to go to a dangerous overseas assignment, I am eligible for a service medal. If I was to display an amazing act of valour to save the lives of others, I would be eligible for civilian bravery awards such as the Cross of Valour. However in the very same circumstances, security contractors are not treated as Australian civilians doing their bit for Australia, instead I fear the Canberra bureaucrats perceive them as 'mercenaries' or 'guns for hire' – and if so, this is awry and sadly misdirected.

So Ben, I'm appealing to you to please step in and address this discriminating anomaly.

Please don't send this letter down to the same old desk in PM&C where the matter will be automatically rejected yet again. It is a matter definitely worthy of change.

I know these security guys, I have seen their pride and passion, I have been the unworthy recipient of their amazing professional services – and I know that the Australian contingent to Iraq could not have lasted for a single day without the commitment they so openly displayed.

So I would ask that they will now finally be made eligible for the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal in recognition of their service for Australia in hazardous circumstances - and also worthy of consideration for civilian awards of valour in instances of outstanding bravery.

If this can't be delivered, then is it please possible to establish a new class of award which achieves similar outcomes.

Many thanks and best wishes

Darryl

DARRYL HOCKEY

s 11C(1)

27 May 2020