

**SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS**

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Date of Document</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Full, Partial or Refused</b>	<b>Exemption(s) provision</b>	<b>Page numbers/part page numbers redacted</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	01/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
2	01/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	2-4	Partial Release
3	01/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii)	1-2	Partial Release
4	01/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
5	01/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
6	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
7	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s47C & s47F	1-2	Refused
8	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Full release	s47C	1	Refused
9	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
10	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Full Release	N/A	N/A	Full Release
11	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Full Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1-2	Full Release
12	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release
13	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F	1	Partial Release

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Date of Document</b>	<b>Document Description</b>	<b>Full, Partial or Refused</b>	<b>Exemption(s) provision</b>	<b>Page numbers/part page numbers redacted</b>	<b>Comments</b>
14	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii), s47C & s47F	1-2	Refused
15	02/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents (media report)	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii), s47C & s47F	1-2	Refused
16	03/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Full Release	N/A	N/A	Full Release
17	03/06/2023	AWM Internal Documents	Partial Release	s22(1)(a)(ii)	1-9	Partial Release

Document 1

REF: 2022-23-19

**From:** Anne Bennie  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 3:07 PM  
**To:** Sarah Hitchcock; Steve Gudgeon  
**Cc:** Leanne Patterson; David Fitzgerald; Brian Dawson; Lea Barnett; Director.Office  
**Subject:** Post 45 and HoV - diligence in galleries

Dear Sarah and Steve,

With this afternoon's news re: defamation case, can I ask that diligence occurs in the lower galleries and HoV around VC displays.

For information, the Memorial's position is below. Note: no comment will be made to media in the immediate term.

- *Collection items relating to Ben Roberts-Smith VC including his uniform, equipment, medals and associated art works are on display in the Memorial's galleries. These items relate to his actions, in Tizak, Afghanistan on 11 June 2010 that led to him being awarded of the Victoria Cross for Australia.*
- *The portrait of Ben Roberts-Smith, his uniform and other items are on display.*
- *Ben Roberts-Smith VC has not been found guilty of any criminal offence.*
- *The Memorial understands the need for due legal process in response to these allegations.*
- *No decisions have been made to remove these items from public display.*

Thanks,

Anne

**Anne Bennie**

Assistant Director, Branch Head Public Programs

[anne.bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:anne.bennie@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4285 | [REDACTED]

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

Document 2

REF: 2022-23-19

**From:** Security  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 3:19 PM  
**To:** Lea Barnett; Melinda Coen; Eileen Procter; Taylor Moore  
**Cc:** Preventive Conservation  
**Subject:** Incident Report 10345 (Unclassified)  
**Attachments:** ShowcaseSeal1.jpg; ShowcaseSeal2.jpg

Hi all,

Please see the below submitted incident report.

## **Incident Report Level 2 (Unclassified)**

**Report Reference Number 10345**  
**Submitted on 01 June 2023**

Submitted by: Erin Stonebridge

Officer who reported incident: Jemma MCGLOIN

Date of incident: 23 May 2023

Time of incident: 0940

Location: Main Bld: Hall of Valour: Uniforms

Description: During gallery rounds, a staff member noticed that the seal on the Uniforms showcase in Hall of Valour (containing Ben ROBERTS-SMITH and Cameron BAIRD's uniforms) was peeling off. The showcase was locked, but because of the seal the doors do not sit flush. Instead, the glass of the left door protrudes out a bit (please see attached photos).

Action taken: The staff member mentioned this to the exhibitions team in a meeting after gallery rounds. Exhibitions followed up with workshop to examine the seal.

OH&S report submitted: No

OH&S report submitted by:

Follow up action: Registration will follow up with Workshop Manager to see whether the case is or can be included on seal replacement programme. Incident report submitted.

Kind regards,

**Erin Stonebridge**

Security Guard | Security

[erin.stonebridge@awm.gov.au](mailto:erin.stonebridge@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4 847 | [REDACTED]

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Document 3

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** Jennie Norberry  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 3:31 PM  
**To:** Amy Pym; Cheryl Peters; Christopher White; Douglas Alexander; Emma Browne; Luke Slatter; Samantha McCrossen; Shannon Sutton  
**Subject:** RE: IS meeting by email

Hi all,

We may receive emails or phone calls following the outcome of the Ben Roberts Smith defamation case. Chances are they will need to be directed to the Exec. If you have a phone call please encourage them to put it into writing so it can be directed to the Exec.

Cheers  
Jennei

---

**From:** Jennie Norberry  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 2:35 PM  
**To:** Amy Pym <[Amy.Pym@awm.gov.au](mailto:Amy.Pym@awm.gov.au)>; Cheryl Peters <[Cheryl.Peters@awm.gov.au](mailto:Cheryl.Peters@awm.gov.au)>; Christopher White <[Christopher.White@awm.gov.au](mailto:Christopher.White@awm.gov.au)>; Douglas Alexander <[Douglas.Alexander@awm.gov.au](mailto:Douglas.Alexander@awm.gov.au)>; Emma Browne <[Emma.Browne@awm.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Browne@awm.gov.au)>; Luke Slatter <[Luke.Slatter@awm.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Slatter@awm.gov.au)>; Samantha McCrossen <[Samantha.McCrossen@awm.gov.au](mailto:Samantha.McCrossen@awm.gov.au)>; Shannon Sutton <[Shannon.Sutton@awm.gov.au](mailto:Shannon.Sutton@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: IS meeting by email

s22(1)(a)(ii)

---

**From:** Jennie Norberry  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 9:32 AM  
**To:** Amy Pym <[Amy.Pym@awm.gov.au](mailto:Amy.Pym@awm.gov.au)>; Cheryl Peters <[Cheryl.Peters@awm.gov.au](mailto:Cheryl.Peters@awm.gov.au)>; Christopher White <[Christopher.White@awm.gov.au](mailto:Christopher.White@awm.gov.au)>; Douglas Alexander <[Douglas.Alexander@awm.gov.au](mailto:Douglas.Alexander@awm.gov.au)>; Emma Browne <[Emma.Browne@awm.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Browne@awm.gov.au)>; Luke Slatter <[Luke.Slatter@awm.gov.au](mailto:Luke.Slatter@awm.gov.au)>; Samantha McCrossen <[Samantha.McCrossen@awm.gov.au](mailto:Samantha.McCrossen@awm.gov.au)>; Shannon Sutton <[Shannon.Sutton@awm.gov.au](mailto:Shannon.Sutton@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** IS meeting by email

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Document 4

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 8:43 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson  
**Subject:** Ben Roberts-Smith

Hi Matt,

I realise this is a difficult subject but as a veteran my PTSD has been triggered by today's announcement. Can you assure me that the large painting of Ben Roberts-Smith has been removed from public display. He has been found to be a murderer and bully and does not represent the Australian Army's values. Your predecessor felt that his VC meant that he was above question, but I hope that the AWM recognises now that the likes of Ben Roberts-Smith do not represent the service of the many soldiers who have sacrificed much in the service of our country.

Sincerely

[REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

Sent from my iPhone

Document 5

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** Aziz Melick [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 9:48 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson  
**Subject:** Re: Peter Stanley supporting the AWM!

Oh moi gawd...  
G

---

**From:** Matt Anderson <Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au>  
**Date:** Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 9:33 PM  
**To:** Aziz Melick [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F; Greg Melick [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
**Subject:** FW: Peter Stanley supporting the AWM!

---

**From:** [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 June 2023 9:09 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson <Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Peter Stanley supporting the AWM!

Albanese and Dutton silent on BRS verdict as top historian says he should keep his VC  
[The former head historian of the Australian War Memorial says disgraced ex-soldier Ben Roberts-Smith should keep his medals.](#)

- 7:33PM JUNE 1, 2023

The Australian War Memorial's former head historian says Ben Roberts-Smith should keep his Victoria Cross, and that tributes to him at the nation's shrine for remembering veterans and Australia's history in war should remain.

Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton stayed silent on Thursday after a judge found Victoria Cross recipient Ben Roberts-Smith committed [serious war crimes](#), including murder, while serving with the SAS in Afghanistan.

Professor Peter Stanley said the judgment would encourage people to look at Australian military history "more dispassionately", but he did not believe any action should be taken to alter tributes to Mr Roberts-Smith at the memorial or strip him of his Victoria Cross. "I think it's best to acknowledge in good time, but today of all days, the War Memorial shouldn't be changing the text panel next to his VC," he said.

"It's in the long run that his reputation will be understood and evaluated."

Professor Stanley said while there was historical precedent for a VC to be stripped in cases where a recipient was convicted of a crime, he did not believe it was appropriate for Mr Roberts-Smith.

"There have been occasions when VC winners have had the medals rescinded for criminal behaviour, criminal offences, but not very many," Professor Stanley said. "And there's over 3000 VCs; I wouldn't think more than a handful have had the decorations taken off them, and no Australians.

"The important thing to remind ourselves is that (Mr Roberts-Smith) hasn't been found guilty of a criminal offence.

"He's just lost his defamation battle."

Of the roughly two million Australians who have served in the military since the Boer War, only 101 men have been awarded the Victoria Cross, which can be awarded to any rank for “conspicuous bravery or the devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy”.

Just eight men lost their medals for various offences, until George V in 1920 declared the decoration should not be forfeited even if a VC was to be “sentenced to be hanged for murder”.

It comes as opposition veterans affairs spokesman Barnaby Joyce urged Australians not to view the outcome of the defamation trial as a reflection on service men and women and argued the high-profile case had been mired by “emotions, innuendo and facts”. “At the full front of my mind is that the Australian people put this to one side, no matter their opinion when understanding the incredibly honourable role our defence force undertaken by men and women taken through its history, and into the future,” Mr Joyce said.

“Without them, we would not have the liberty, the freedom, the nation that we have.”

Justice Anthony Besanko ruled Mr Roberts-Smith had committed murders of civilians, including of Ali Jan, the farmer kicked off a cliff in the village of Darwan.

Australian National University Professor John Blaxland said the result was reflective of Australia’s “too-clever-by-half” approach in Afghanistan and Iraq, and that the nation should not be surprised that “something would go awry” over successive deployments.

“Too much was expected by too many of too few. Successive governments, Labor and Coalition, endorsed a carefully calibrated approach to Australia’s military commitment that relied too heavily on one small component of the ADF,” he said.

Greens defence spokesman David Shoebridge urged Labor to urgently progress compensation for families of the victims of alleged Afghanistan war crimes after it was a key recommendation of the Brereton report.



---

This message may contain confidential information and is intended only for its recipient(s). If you have received this email by error, please delete this e-mail from your system and notify the sender immediately. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure. E-mail information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late, be incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message.

---

Document 6

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** Matt Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 6:15 PM  
**To:** Australian War Memorial  
**Subject:** Statement by Council following the decision in the Ben Roberts-Smith Defamation Case

Dear Colleagues,

With apologies for a late afternoon/end of week message, I wanted to share the Council media statement (text and link below) following today's Council meeting and the decision in the Ben Roberts-Smith defamation case.

Yesterday's decision was the first step in what will likely be a long process.

I want to express my sincere gratitude for your professionalism and dedication during this time. By approaching this situation with empathy for all involved, we can navigate the challenges while upholding the values we hold dear.

Please feel free to reach out to your manager, or to me, if you have any further concerns or suggestions.

And if you are affected by this in any way, the Memorial's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider is Converge International. They provide a free and completely confidential counselling service for staff, volunteers and immediate family members who may be experiencing personal or work related difficulties.

Converge can be contacted via [Converge International](#) web portal or phone 1300 OUR EAP (1300 687 327).

Please continue to look after yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Matt

**Matt Anderson, PSM**

Director

[matt.anderson@awm.gov.au](mailto:matt.anderson@awm.gov.au) | t +61 (0)2 6243 4262 | [REDACTED]  
Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

*"Here is their spirit, in the heart of the land they loved; and here we guard the record which they themselves made."*

<https://www.awm.gov.au/media/on-the-record/statement>

[Begins]

## Statement from Australian War Memorial Chair, The Hon Kim Beazley AC, on behalf of the Australian War Memorial Council

"The Memorial assists in remembering, interpreting and understanding Australia's experience of war and its enduring impact. This includes the causes, conduct and consequences of war.

The Memorial acknowledges the gravity of the decision in the Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG defamation case and its broader impact on all involved in the Australian community.

This is the outcome of a civil legal case, and one step in a longer process.

Collection items relating to Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, including his uniform, equipment, medals and associated art works, are on display in the Memorial's galleries. We are considering carefully the additional content and context to be included in these displays.

The Memorial acknowledges Afghanistan veterans and their families who may be affected at this time."

Document 7

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** John Holloway  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 1:05 PM  
**To:** Elliot Woods; Rachel Curtis  
**Subject:** RE: Internal message on BRS

s47C

---

**From:** Elliot Woods <Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** John Holloway <John.Holloway@awm.gov.au>; Rachel Curtis <Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Internal message on BRS

s47C

---

**From:** Elliot Woods  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:39 PM  
**To:** John Holloway <[John.Holloway@awm.gov.au](mailto:John.Holloway@awm.gov.au)>; Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Internal message on BRS

s47C

---

**From:** John Holloway <[John.Holloway@awm.gov.au](mailto:John.Holloway@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:06 PM  
**To:** Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>; Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Internal message on BRS

s47C

s47C

**John Holloway**

Internal Communication Manager | Communications and Marketing

[john.holloway@awm.gov.au](mailto:john.holloway@awm.gov.au) | [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

Document 8

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** Matt Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 3:24 PM  
**To:** Elliot Woods  
**Cc:** Anne Bennie; Brian Dawson; Leanne Patterson; John Holloway; Rachel Curtis; Director.Office  
**Subject:** RE: Internal message

s47C

---

**From:** Elliot Woods <Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 2:40 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson <Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Anne Bennie <Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au>; Brian Dawson <Brian.Dawson@awm.gov.au>; Leanne Patterson <Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au>; John Holloway <John.Holloway@awm.gov.au>; Rachel Curtis <Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Internal message

s47C



Document 9

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** Brian Dawson  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 3:55 PM  
**To:** Rachel Curtis  
**Subject:** RE: Media coverage

Rachel, thanks

**Brian Dawson**  
Assistant Director National Collection  
Australian War Memorial  
[brian.dawson@awm.gov.au](mailto:brian.dawson@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4297  
Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

---

**From:** Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 3:31 PM  
**To:** Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>; Anne Bennie <[Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au)>; Matt Anderson <[Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au)>; Director.Office <[director.office@awm.gov.au](mailto:director.office@awm.gov.au)>; Leanne Patterson <[Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au)>; Wayne Hitches <[Wayne.Hitches@awm.gov.au](mailto:Wayne.Hitches@awm.gov.au)>; Brian Dawson <[Brian.Dawson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Brian.Dawson@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** AWM Media <[media@awm.gov.au](mailto:media@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Media coverage

Hi Team

Initial reporting of our statement from SBS below:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/ben-roberts-smith-resigns-from-channel-7-amid-war-crimes-fallout/h8fb873g2> -

Attributed to Australian War Memorial Chair, Kim Beazley, on behalf of the Australian War Memorial Council:

STARTS

*The Memorial assists in remembering, interpreting and understanding Australia's experience of war and its enduring impact. This includes the causes, conduct and consequences of war.*

*The Memorial acknowledges the gravity of the decision in the Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG defamation case and its broader impact on all involved in the Australian community.*

*This is the outcome of a civil legal case, and one step in a longer process.*

*Collection items relating to Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG, including his uniform, equipment, medals and associated art works, are on display in the Memorial's galleries. We are considering carefully the additional content and context to be included in these displays.*

*The Memorial acknowledges Afghanistan veterans and their families who may be affected at this time.*

ENDS

Kind regards

Rachel

**Rachel Curtis**  
Media Relations Manager | Communications and Marketing | [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
[rachel.curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:rachel.curtis@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6263 6628 | [REDACTED]



Document 10

REF: 2022-23-19

foi

---

**From:** Rebecca Leddy  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 8:33 AM  
**To:** Sarah Hawkins; Leanne Patterson  
**Cc:** Executive; Sarah Harvey  
**Subject:** RE: Reception: BRS outcome

Thanks Leanne and Sarah. I will speak with Tash this morning and brief receptionists who are on next week.

Kind regards,

**Rebecca Leddy**

Executive Assistant to the Assistant Directors

[rebecca.leddy@awm.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.leddy@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4232

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their Elders past, present and emerging.

---

**From:** Sarah Hawkins <[Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 8:26 AM  
**To:** Leanne Patterson <[Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au)>; Rebecca Leddy <[Rebecca.Leddy@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Leddy@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Executive <[Executive@awm.gov.au](mailto:Executive@awm.gov.au)>; Sarah Harvey <[Sarah.Harvey@awm.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Harvey@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: Reception: BRS outcome

Thank Leanne,

I did receive this from Anne yesterday so am prepared. I will give Reception a tally sheet to record enquiries. I have spoken to Matt and if the caller is abusive, reception will be terminating calls after recording the position of the caller. I will put words together to assist them to do this.

Hawkins

---

**From:** Leanne Patterson <[Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Leanne.Patterson@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 8:07 AM  
**To:** Sarah Hawkins <[Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au)>; Rebecca Leddy <[Rebecca.Leddy@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rebecca.Leddy@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Executive <[Executive@awm.gov.au](mailto:Executive@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Reception: BRS outcome

Hi Bec (and Sarah in case Bec is away today),

We're not issuing a statement but below is the Memorial's position on yesterday's decision, for Reception staff to refer to if calls come through:

- *Collection items relating to Ben Roberts-Smith VC including his uniform, equipment, medals and associated art works are on display in the Memorial's galleries. These items relate to his actions, in Tizak, Afghanistan on 11 June 2010 that led to him being awarded of the Victoria Cross for Australia.*
- *The portrait of Ben Roberts-Smith, his uniform and other items are on display.*
- *Ben Roberts-Smith VC has not been found guilty of any criminal offence.*
- *The Memorial understands the need for due legal process in response to these allegations.*
- *No decisions have been made to remove these items from public display.*

Please ensure any particularly difficult calls are reported as incidents and provide support as necessary.

thanks  
Leanne

Document 11

REF: 2022-23-19

**Daniel Martynow**

---

**From:** Troy Clayton  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 1:52 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F  
**Subject:** FW: Weekly email

## Weekly Email – 02 June 2023

Good afternoon, greetings and salutations on this fine Friday.

We bid you a warm welcome to this wonderful weekly email.

### **Ben Roberts-Smith**

We expect you are all aware that on Thursday afternoon, Ben Roberts-Smith lost his defamation case against newspapers *The Age*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Canberra Times*. We can only anticipate that some visitors might become upset and vocal about his presence in the collection. However, our messaging to visitors remains unchanged i.e. as per the Director's advice in June 2022 and again reiterated in March 2023, 'The Memorial's position is the principle of innocence until proven guilty. Until that time, Council has directed that nothing will go up (about Brereton) nor will anything come down (or off display).' We expect all Memorial staff and volunteers to respect this position and refrain from discussing their personal feelings on this topic with visitors. If you find the conversation is more than polite in nature, please do not hesitate to contact your Supervisor and complete an incident report. Please do not complete an incident report unless you have spoken to your Supervisor first.

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

Document 12

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** Joanna Taplin  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 21 June 2023 11:51 AM  
**To:** Robyn Siers  
**Subject:** FW: Important - In the news

**Importance:** High

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

Hi everyone,

You may have heard on the news this week about the loss by Ben Roberts-Smith VC in his defamation case against media and journalists. Please don't be drawn into discussion about this with teachers, students, or other Memorial staff, or express your own personal views on the matter. We have been advised that at this stage that **the Memorial's position (and exhibition display) remains unchanged pending the outcome of the Brereton report.**

If you receive any comments or questions from groups or the general public, please come and pass this on to myself or Robyn.

Kind regards,  
Joanna

**Joanna Taplin**

Senior Education Officer | Commemoration and Visitor Engagement

[joanna.taplin@awm.gov.au](mailto:joanna.taplin@awm.gov.au) | t 02 62434 364

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

To send files larger than 3MB [click here](#)

The Australian War Memorial acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia. We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and waters. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Document 13

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** Sarah Hawkins  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 8:32 AM  
**To:** Reception Desk  
**Subject:** callers today

Thank you for your call.

- *Collection items relating to Ben Roberts-Smith VC including his uniform, equipment, medals and associated art works are on display in the Memorial's galleries. These items relate to his actions, in Tizak, Afghanistan on 11 June 2010 that led to him being awarded of the Victoria Cross for Australia.*
- *The portrait of Ben Roberts-Smith, his uniform and other items are on display.*
- *Ben Roberts-Smith VC has not been found guilty of any criminal offence.*
- *The Memorial understands the need for due legal process in response to these allegations.*
- *No decisions have been made to remove these items from public display.*

If the caller persists; thank them for the call.  
I have recorded your position and will pass it on.  
If you have nothing further to add I am going to end the call.

Kind regards,

Sarah

**Sarah Hawkins**

Executive Officer to the Director | Manager, Executive Support

[Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.Hawkins@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4210 | [REDACTED]

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

Document 14

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** Elliot Woods  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:49 PM  
**To:** Anne Bennie; Matt Anderson  
**Cc:** Rachel Curtis  
**Subject:** RE: Drafted BRS media release for Council discussion....

s47C

---

**From:** Anne Bennie <Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:35 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson <Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Rachel Curtis <Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au>; Elliot Woods <Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Drafted BRS media release for Council discussion....

s47C

---

**From:** Matt Anderson <[Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** Anne Bennie <[Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>; Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Drafted BRS media release for Council discussion....

s47C

s47C

**Anne Bennie**

Assistant Director, Branch Head Public Programs s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

[anne.bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:anne.bennie@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4285 | [REDACTED]

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)



foi

---

**From:** Rachel Curtis  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 11:40 AM  
**To:** Anne Bennie  
**Cc:** Elliot Woods  
**Subject:** RE: How are you going with draft ? Timeframe ?

s47C

---

**From:** Anne Bennie <[Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: How are you going with draft ? Timeframe ?

s47C

---

**From:** Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 11:30 AM  
**To:** Anne Bennie <[Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: How are you going with draft ? Timeframe ?

s47C

---

**From:** Anne Bennie <[Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:Anne.Bennie@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 11:29 AM  
**To:** Rachel Curtis <[Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au](mailto:Rachel.Curtis@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Elliot Woods <[Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au](mailto:Elliot.Woods@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** How are you going with draft ? Timeframe ?

**Anne Bennie**

Assistant Director, Branch Head Public Programs

s22(1)(a)(ii) & s47F

[anne.bennie@awm.gov.au](mailto:anne.bennie@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4285 | [REDACTED]

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

Document 16

REF: 2022-23-19

## Daniel Martynow

---

**From:** Wayne Hitches  
**Sent:** Saturday, 3 June 2023 9:59 AM  
**To:** Matt Anderson; Bliss Jensen  
**Cc:** Chris Widenbar  
**Subject:** RE: Glenn Kolomeitz lawyer Q&A

I would very much like to offer this to the entire Precinct and Gallery team as an opportunity to understand and be able to respond to general queries in an informed way.

Regards Wayne

---

**From:** Matt Anderson <Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 5:47 PM  
**To:** Bliss Jensen <Bliss.Jensen@awm.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Wayne Hitches <Wayne.Hitches@awm.gov.au>; Chris Widenbar <Chris.Widenbar@awm.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Glenn Kolomeitz lawyer Q&A

Thanks Bliss

I think this is a good idea. He was very considered this morning on tv and argued for patience for those rushing to convict BRS for war crimes.

I'll be guided by others whether his talk should be confined to the Gallery Development team or a more broad audience – I personally think it is something we should all seek to understand.

Sincerely

Matt

---

**From:** Bliss Jensen <[Bliss.Jensen@awm.gov.au](mailto:Bliss.Jensen@awm.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 5:40 PM  
**To:** Matt Anderson <[Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au](mailto:Matt.Anderson@awm.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Wayne Hitches <[Wayne.Hitches@awm.gov.au](mailto:Wayne.Hitches@awm.gov.au)>; Chris Widenbar <[Chris.Widenbar@awm.gov.au](mailto:Chris.Widenbar@awm.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Glenn Kolomeitz lawyer Q&A

Dear Matt,

I was thinking this might be valuable for all the Memorial or key Memorial staff (CMG, Curatorial reps across NC branch, MHS and CAM) to join the development team in hosting Glenn for a 30 minute explainer. See Eleni's great suggestion with some details on Glenn below.

It would be extremely useful particularly navigating the OSI and Brereton report content in Afghanistan, but could be expedited to assist CAM and CMG in the weeks ahead.  
Look forward to your advice on how to proceed with this or what your thoughts are for attendees if GD coordinate him as a guest speaker.

Regards  
Bliss

---

**From:** Eleni Holloway <[Eleni.Holloway@awm.gov.au](mailto:Eleni.Holloway@awm.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Friday, 2 June 2023 11:44 AM

**To:** Bliss Jensen <[Bliss.Jensen@awm.gov.au](mailto:Bliss.Jensen@awm.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Glenn Kolomeitz Q&A

Dear Bliss,

This morning I received a call from a contact of mine, Afghanistan veteran Glenn Kolomeitz. Recent media coverage of the Ben Roberts-Smith defamation trial has highlighted general confusion in the public domain around defamation law and international criminal law, and this confusion extends to the workplace. I was thinking it would be quite valuable to have Glenn come in and talk to the Afghanistan team about the different areas of law, terminology (truth clause, burden of proof) and allow a Q&A style session.

Glenn Kolomeitz served as a military police officer and legal officer and now runs his own legal firm in Canberra. He is extremely passionate and an expert in this area of law and has been appointed to lead the Ukrainian War Crimes investigation teams. He also has worked countless pro bono cases to get Afghan Locally Engaged Employees, civilians and their families to Australia and was very vocal around the fall of Kabul and evacuation mission- he is still working to get Afghans out of Afghanistan. Glenn is helping us shape our display about the fall of Kabul and has sourced an original Taliban night letter for the gallery, which is incredible.

I've included some links about Glenn which may be of interest:

<https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/glenn-kolomeitz-an-australian-attorney-and-veteran-advocate-appointed-to-lead-the-ukrainian-war-crimes-mobile-justice-teams/>

<https://www.lifeonthelinepodcast.com/podcast/2022/8/16/the-fall-of-kabul-with-glenn-kolomeitz>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-11/family-of-afghan-interpreters-at-risk-after-taliban-control/101321224>

I wondered would the rest of the Gallery Development team be interested in hearing Glenn talk? If so, is there a process to get approval and extend an invite to all of GD?

Otherwise, I am happy to catch up with Glenn just with the Afghan team or by myself, but I thought it may be a great opportunity for staff to be informed and get clarity around these complex issues, as well as inform our war crimes display and improve knowledge in this area.

Let me know if this is of interest.

Best,

Eleni

**Eleni Holloway**

Assistant Curator | Middle East Galleries | Gallery Development Program

[Eleni.Holloway@awm.gov.au](mailto:Eleni.Holloway@awm.gov.au) | t 02 6243 4535 |

Australian War Memorial | GPO Box 345 Canberra ACT 2601 | [www.awm.gov.au](http://www.awm.gov.au)

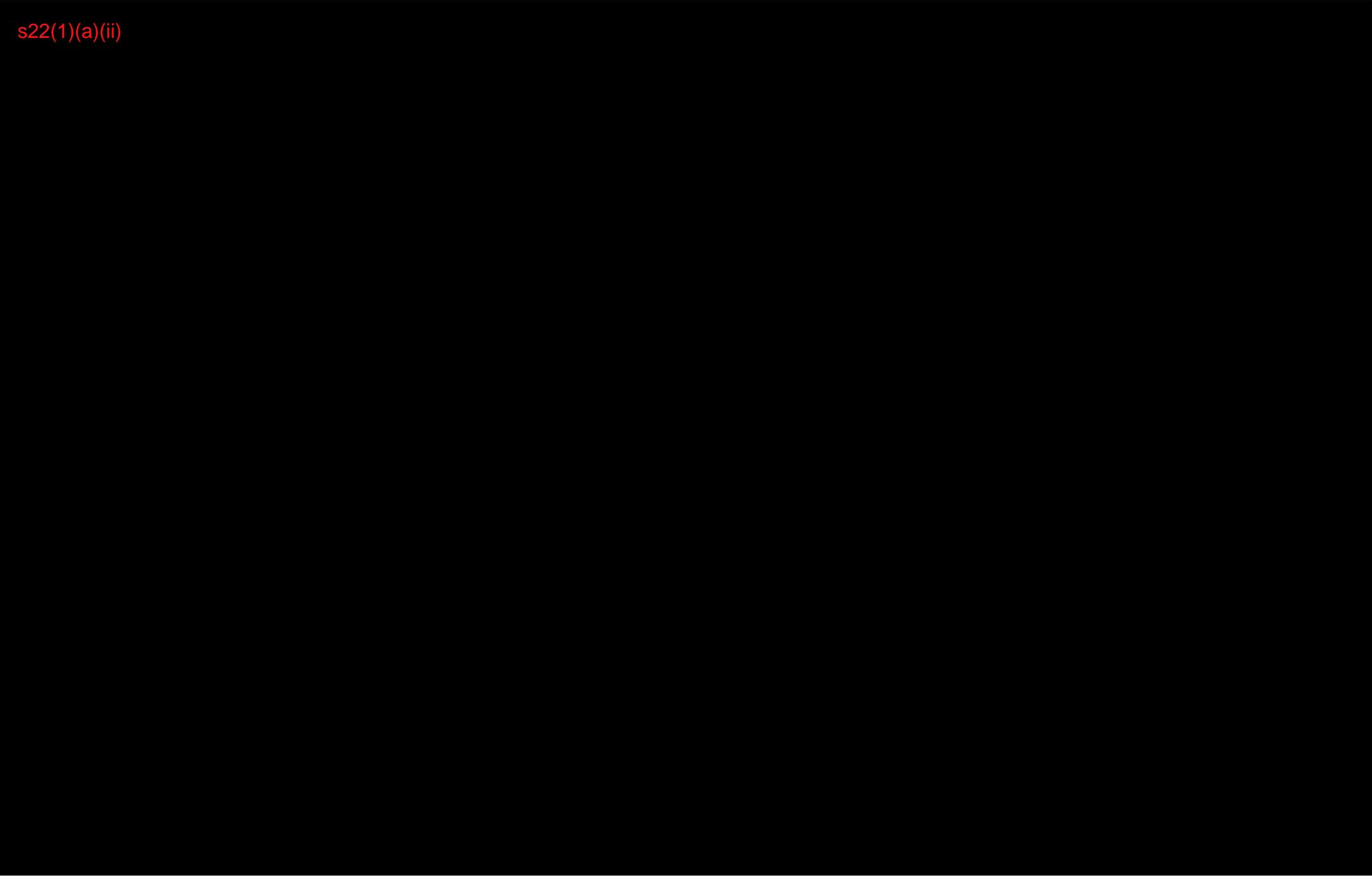
To transfer large files: <https://filetransfer.awm.gov.au/filedrop/eleni.holloway@awm.gov.au>

*I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I work, the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples, and pay my respects to their Elders past and present.*

Document 17

REF: 2022-23-19

s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)

## 8. Incidents:

- Incident Reports,
- First Aid, and
- Code Mikes.

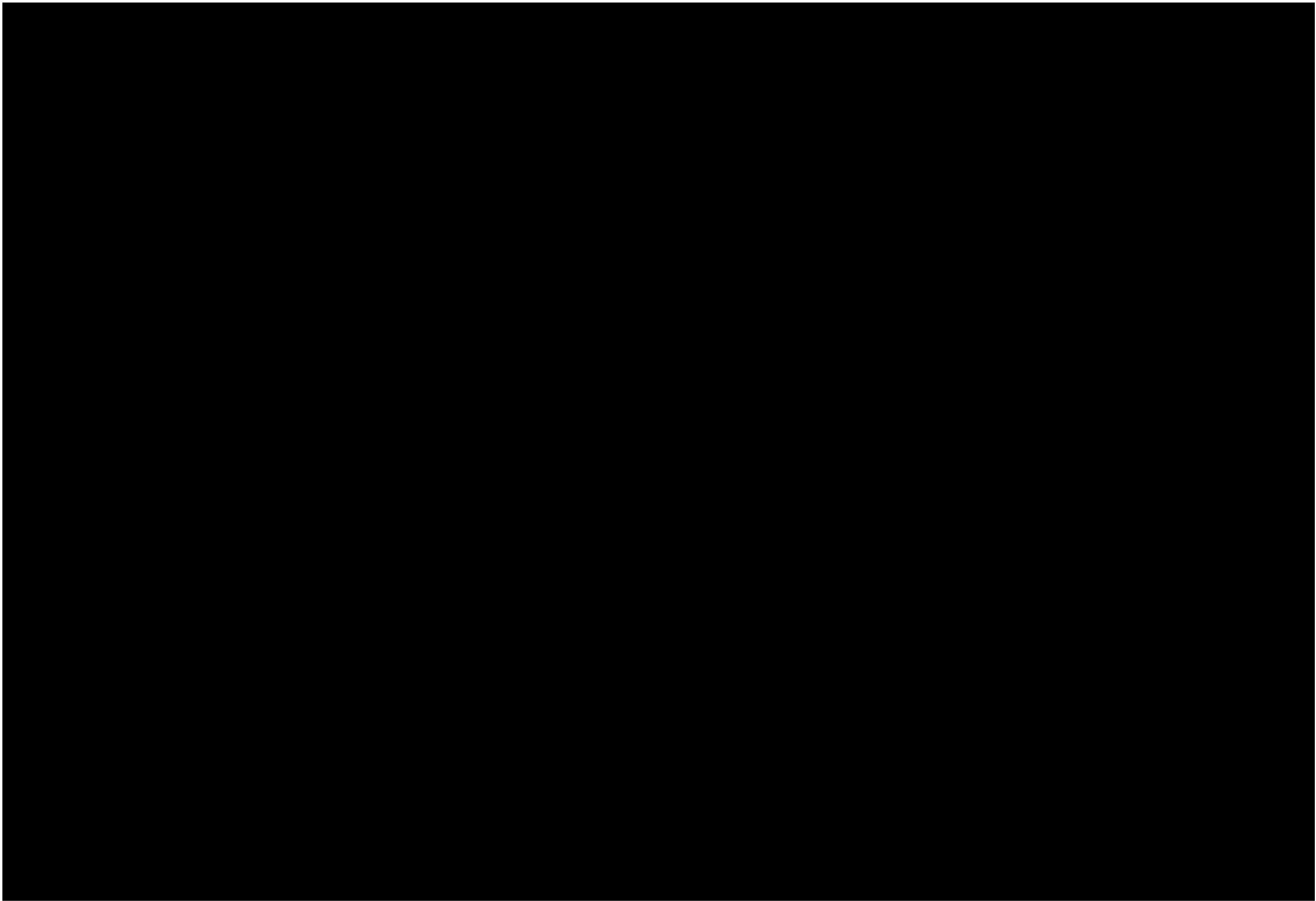
### Ben Roberts-Smith

The following relate to Ben Roberts-Smith:

At about 10.15 a phone call was received at Information desk. The caller 'Phil' was put through to me as he requested to speak to 'Management'. He advised that he wanted to voice his concerns around the Ben Robert-Smith matter and that his items were still on display. He said it was very inappropriate and if he could, he would come down and stand next to the items. It was unclear what he would do then. I advised him of the statement around the AWM's position. He said it was weasel words. I asked for his contact number so that a representative of the AWM could call him to discuss it further. He declined to provide a number. I suggested he call back on Monday and he said he would do that. I suspect that he was taping our telephone conversation. Incident report submitted.

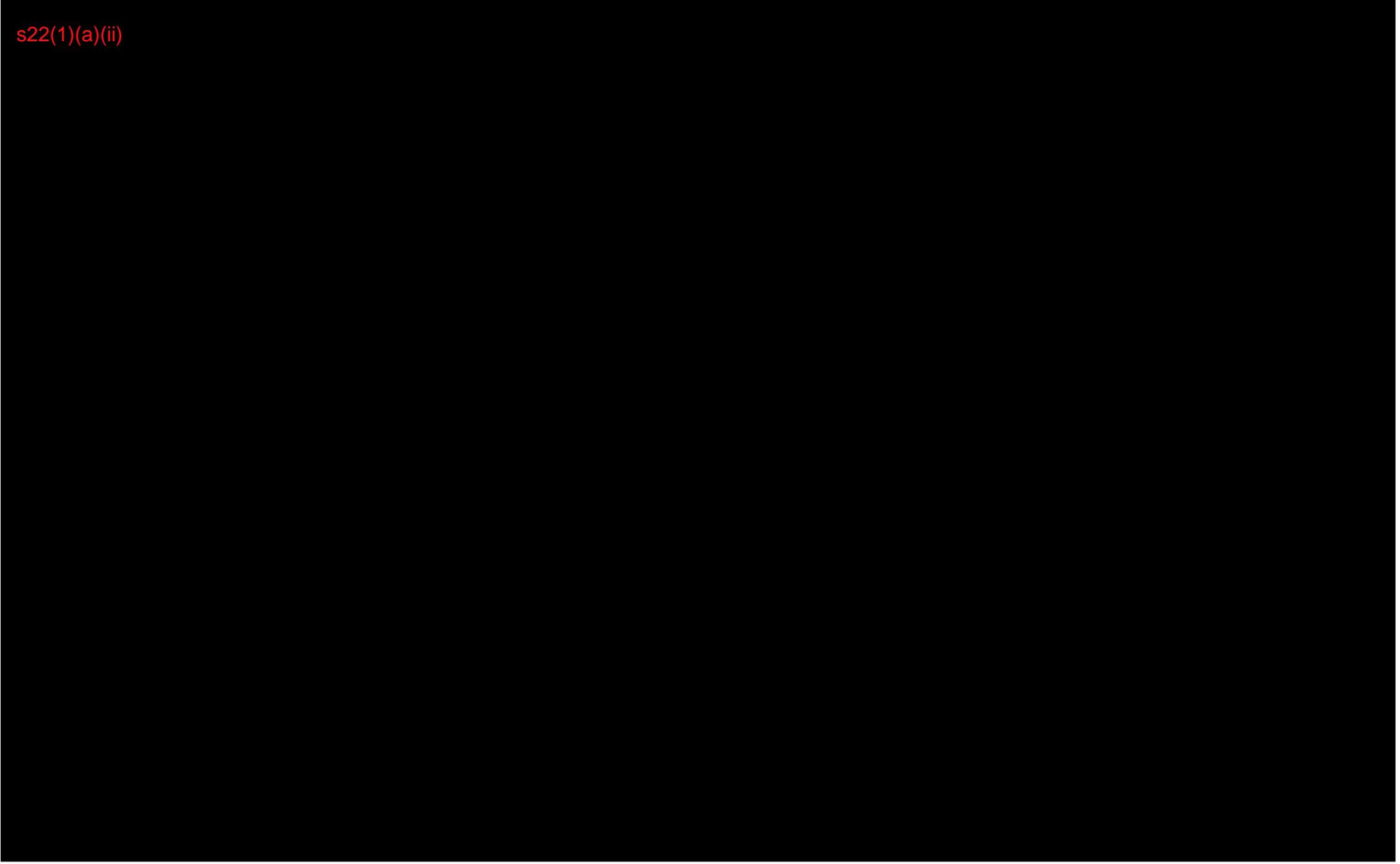
Another phone call was taken by VSO staff at Information desk at 11.23. The caller advised that they would not bring family into the AWM while we have BRS items on display. He called the council a disgrace and said some obscenities ("...fucking retards..") unclear who this was directed towards before hanging up. Incident report submitted.

An incident report was submitted regarding the silicon sealing on the case with the BRS and Cameron Baird uniforms. The sealing appears to have been pushed inwards resulting in the case no longer being sealed. (Security advised that this is a known issue and was recently reported by Jemma McGloin however this incident report was submitted in case this matter has since been rectified and this is a subsequent issue).



s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)



s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)

s22(1)(a)(ii)