

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 12 January 2023 12:09 PM
To: s47F
Cc: EIAT
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Attachments: AEC TPs - Phishing attempt against the AEC and the EIAT.docx

Hi s47F

In response to Kath's suggestion for discourse on the below topics in the *Voice* meeting tomorrow, please see some high-level talking points for your review and clearance to Matt attached (the EIAT section of the original talking points is what has been updated).

After Matt has approved, think it'll be worth sharing with Kath/others for visibility.

Happy to discuss.

Kind regards

s47F

s47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

s47F



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From: Kath Gleeson s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 10 January 2023 9:23 PM
To: s47F Matthew Haigh s47F
Cc: Michael Lynch s47F s47F
; John Forrest s47F
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Wonderful, thanks s47F

I will share the general response with NIAA but given the mis/dis meeting has been set up now for Friday it will make most sense for Matt to provide this context in that session.

And on the topic of Friday's meeting, I have forwarded another invitation that has come from NIAA. @Matthew – pls invite anyone from your team you want there (EES, perhaps?).

- I intend to open given I kind of instigated this joining up (unless s47F does)
- I will perhaps throw to Matt for some info on:
 - o Briefly what EIAT is and what was done in mis/dis space for 22FE
 - o What we intend to do for 23Ref
 - o What we won't do (I'm happy to speak to this if needed. But it is basically anything not relating to process of the referendum, e.g. operation of The Voice etc.)
- I understand there will be reps from AGD, DoF, Infra & Comms s47F and Home Affairs s47F NIAA.

Cheers – Kath.

Kath Gleeson | First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager
Service Delivery Group
Executive Leadership Team
Australian Electoral Commission

[REDACTED] s47F

EA: [REDACTED] s47F

EO: [REDACTED] s47F



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From: [REDACTED] s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 10 January 2023 4:42 PM

To: Kath Gleeson [REDACTED] s47F

Cc: Michael Lynch [REDACTED] s47F Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] s47F

[REDACTED] s47F

Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi Kath

Please see the attached talking points, now cleared by AC EICB Matt Haigh, regarding the below email thread and request for information from the NIAA in December.

For quick reference, the NIAA has asked for:

- *Clarity re the purpose of the [spear phishing] attack, trends, and what the overall risks are. Also would be good to understand what the EIAT is and whether a referendum specific one is needed.*

This topic may be raised during the *VOICE Mis/Disinformation* meeting with the NIAA (and others) on Friday 13 January 2022. If that is the case, Matt is attending and is comfortable talking to the subject given the EICB equities as well as his role as Chair of the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce if you would like.

In response to NIAA's queries at a high-level:

- [REDACTED] s47E
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- *Information about the EIAT is within the talking points, including the EIAT Board's intention to brief the NIAA / Referendum IDC about the EIAT and its potential role during the proposed referendum – likely to occur soon or at least within qtr. 1 2023 (to be scheduled by PM&C).*

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards
Anna

[REDACTED] s47F | Assistant Director

s47F



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From: Michael Lynch [REDACTED] s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 4:00 PM
To: AEC - [REDACTED] s47F
Cc: (OFFICIAL) Matthew Haigh [REDACTED] s47F (OFFICIAL-AEC) [REDACTED] s47F
[REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Thanks [REDACTED] s47F – note I changed [REDACTED] s47F email to be AEC.

Regards

Michael Lynch | First Assistant Commissioner
Electoral Integrity and Operations Group
Australian Electoral Commission

[REDACTED] s47F



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From: AEC - [REDACTED] s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 2:46 PM
To: Michael Lynch [REDACTED] s47F
Cc: Matthew Haigh <[REDACTED] s47F>; (OFFICIAL) [REDACTED] s47F
Subject: RE: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Thanks, Michael.

We are consulting the Cyber Security team to assist in updating our existing talking points on this subject. Once complete, we'll seek Matt's review/clearance ahead of providing to you and Kath.

Kind regards
Anna

[REDACTED] s47F

From: AEC - LYNCH,Michael [REDACTED] s47F >
Sent: Wednesday, 21 December 2022 7:07 AM
To: AEC - IGGLESDEN,Julie [REDACTED] s47F; AEC - BATTEN,Anastasia
[REDACTED] s47F
Cc: AEC - HAIGH,Matthew [REDACTED] s47F
Subject: FW: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hi Julie & [REDACTED] – just looping you in. You'll see further info below regarding EIAT and the phishing attempt and Kath's request for some talking points please.

Regards

Michael Lynch

[REDACTED]

From: AEC - GLEESON, Kath [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 9:43 PM
To: AEC - HAIGH, Matthew [REDACTED] AEC - LYNCH, Michael [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

Hey – see trail below. In the new year, could you pls provide me with some TPs so I can speak to this in the IDC?

Kath Gleeson
First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager
Service Delivery Group
Australian Electoral Commission

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2022 1:47 PM
To: AEC - GLEESON, Kath [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kath,

Sorry for the confusion.

The meeting on the 13th will be outside of IDC, with [REDACTED] are attending from NIAA.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

From: AEC - GLEESON, Kath [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 9 December 2022 2:58 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: AEC - SCANDRETT, Natasha [REDACTED]; AEC - SO, Sally [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL:Sensitive

OK, thanks [REDACTED] I assume we will cover this at the meeting on Friday, 13 January 2023 1:30 PM-2:30 PM that has come through today?

Cheers – Kath.

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s47F AEC - SO,Sally

s47F

s47F

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Kath!

Apologies about the mix up and I didn't mean to put AEC on the spot.

We received the below notification from the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT) about a phishing attempt on the AEC.

I think it would be good to get clarity re the purpose of the attack, trends, and what the overall risks are. Also would be good to understand what the EIAT is and whether a referendum specific one is needed.

At the last IDC it was decided to have a 1 hour session in January to cover it all off. Is that okay?

Regards,

s47F

From: EIAT <EIAT@aec.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 1 December 2022 3:28 PM

[illegible]

s47F

Subject: For awareness: AEC spear phishing campaign [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not follow guidance, click links, or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon EIAT members

For your information and awareness, we would like to bring to your attention a recent 'spear phishing' email campaign at the AEC. The detail of these emails is below.

AEC systems were **not** compromised in any way. We believe this is worthwhile sharing with the EIAT on the basis that despite being contained by the AEC, the campaign appears targeted and somewhat sophisticated. It is possible it relates to the proposed referendum given the targeting of AEC's Indigenous Electoral Participation Program mailboxes. [REDACTED] s47E

It is a reminder that the cyber threat environment for the proposed referendum is unlikely to be lower than for a federal election.

Email details

On 14 November 2022, at 22:52, a series of emails were sent to the AEC's eight IEPP mailboxes, from the falsified email address support[.]aec.gov.au, with the subject '[email address] have 12 Pending incoming emails'. The list of recipients is as follows:

- indigenous@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-sa@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-wa@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-vic@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-tas@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-qld@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-nt@aec.gov.au
- indigenous-nsw@aec.gov.au

[REDACTED] s47E

s47E

Thanks,

s47F | Project Officer

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Communications Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

s47F



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From: AEC - GLEESON, Kath **s47F**

Sent: Thursday, 8 December 2022 2:02 PM

To: **s47F**

Cc: AEC - SCANDRETT, Natasha **s47F**; AEC - SO, Sally

Subject: FW: IDC Agenda_8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Hi [REDACTED] s47F – I see we were down on the agenda for an item on phishing (apologies I couldn't attend today – I had a clash); I'm not clear where this came from – can you advise?

Kath Gleeson
First Assistant Commissioner & National Election Manager
Service Delivery Group
Australian Electoral Commission

From: [REDACTED] s47F

To: [REDACTED] s47F

Cc: [REDACTED] s47F

Subject: IDC Agenda 8/12 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good afternoon,

Please note that tomorrow's meeting is from 10:30 – 11:00.

Regards,

Constitutional Recognition Policy | Recognition and Empowerment Branch | Strategic Policy Group
National Indigenous Australians Agency



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



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