

s22

Subject: Canceled: Placeholder | s47F (Microsoft) & Commissioner
[SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: NO - Commissioner's Office
Start: Wed 22/01/2025 1:30 PM
End: Wed 22/01/2025 2:30 PM
Show Time As: Free
Recurrence: (none)
Organiser: Jeff Pope
Required Attendees: s47F ; s47F ; Defending Democracy Unit
Optional Attendees: s47F ; s47F

Cancelled as updated meeting invite sent for same time.

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Meeting ID: s47E 3

Passcode: s47E

Dial in by phone

s47E Australia, Sydney

s47E

Phone conference ID: s47E

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s47F | **Personal Assistant to the Commissioner**
Executive Leadership Team
Australian Electoral Commission
T: s47F X: s47F M: s47F

Federal election work

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and expand **your network**.



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral
Commissioner, Canberra

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From: s47F

Sent: Friday, 13 December 2024 9:18 AM

To: s47F

Cc: s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan

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Hi s47F

As foreshadowed when we saw you a couple of weeks ago, I am delighted that s47F from our Democracy Forward team will be visiting Canberra on 22 January. You met s47F on the call we had with Commissioner Rogers. He works alongside s47F and s47F on our support for election commissions around the world.

I am keen to work with you on what engagements the AEC would find useful. My early ideas are:

- **Training for AEC team:** ideally a **90 mins session** and we can bring in as many folks as you would like. We can work with you on a program, but s47F and team run trainings for election officials globally on AI and synthetic media, dis and misinformation, cyber security etc.
- **Briefing for EIAT:** pick up where s47F left off with our insights post-US election, update on Au and regional specific insights, any other topics of interest to the group. We could also conduct some training for this group if we thought that would be useful.
- **Meeting with CIO and team:** again, picking up where s47F left off and working with our account team and AEC on technical support for the election.
- **1:1 with Acting Commissioner:** if this would be a useful engagement.

It would be great to do some hinking in coming days so I can start to build s47F program this side of Christmas.

Also, I believe we were waiting on some follow up from your side following our meeting with Commissioner Rogers – please do let us know where this is up to and how we can help.

Looking forward to our continued engagement.

Thanks

s47F



s47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s47F

www.microsoft.com

Mob: s47F

s22

From: s47F
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 5:13 PM
To: Defending Democracy Unit; s47F
Cc: s47F
Subject: RE: 22nd January Meeting Confirmations and Logistics [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: s47F

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Thank you s47F As per my other note, we were sending similar emails at similar times!

I will merge mine in line below so we can keep in the one chain. Also adding s47F for his visibility, as I am offline tomorrow and he will be in the air over the weekend.

We too are looking forward to these engagements – thank you so much for the work that has going into organising it.

Best

s47F



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s47F
www.microsoft.com
Mob: s47F

From: Defending Democracy Unit
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:56 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit ; s47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 22nd January Meeting Confirmations and Logistics [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

I hope you are having a wonderful start to the new year.

Ahead of s47F visit to the AEC next Wednesday the 22nd of January, I wanted to reach out to confirm some logistics, agenda items and meeting time confirmations.

Logistics:

- As s47F will be here at our National Office for his 4 meetings, with some time in between, we wanted to confirm if he will need an office space for the day? I am more than happy to arrange a meeting room / or desk area for him to call his own for the day. If this is preferential, please let me know the time-period he would like the space for (i.e. 9am -5pm) and I will work with our team to coordinate a suitable space. **Thank you for this kind offer. I think the only gaps are brief but we**

may use that time to pop out for lunch/coffee, especially from 12-1240. One ask would be someone on hand to escort us out and back into AEC please.

- Thank you for advising that s47F will be in Canberra for an extra day on the 23rd and offering to meet with the EIMB (Electoral Integrity & Media Branch). We have decided to invite any interested EIMB members to our EIAT (Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce) meeting instead of having two separate sessions. **Thank you, that makes good sense! We can also meet before 11 or after 4pm if there is anything specific you'd like to discuss that isn't covered in the other meetings.**
- Does s47F plan on presenting with a slideshow / need AV connection? If so, could you please assist in arranging for any presentations to be sent through to our Defending Democracy Unit Inbox s47E ahead of Wednesday's meetings for us to have ready for s47F presentations. **s47F will have slides to share; I am not sure that all will be able to be sent to you given the confidential nature of some of the content which we generally do not "leave behind". If possible to have a teams link for him to join? That would be preferable please and I recall what we did last time.**

Topics of interest and Meeting Confirmations:

I can happily confirm all meetings with s47F on January 22nd, as listed below. Thank you for the opportunity to provide topics of interest to s47F ahead of each briefing. We are keen to hear from his perspectives as having worked in support of the integrity of elections globally. I have outlined some topics of particular interest to each group below.

- Cyber x s47F @ 11:00am – 12:00pm
 - Insights into Microsoft's Account Guard Service and how other countries have use and benefited from the service.
 - Threat intelligence – interested in understanding trends from state actors.
 - Any observations on the level of influence and interference campaigns vs cyber-attacks such as DDOS
 - Are influence and interference campaigns more effective for state actors than straight out cyber-attacks?
 - **s47F will be able to cover these points. He has been working with our colleagues in the Microsoft Threat Analysis Centre (MTAC) and the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Centre (MSTIC) on latest shareable threat insights which he will share. Our colleague s47F from MSTIC, s47G will also join this meeting.**
- Chief Information Officer x s47F @ 12:45pm – 1:30pm
 - Arranged by CIO team and s47F (Microsoft).
- Briefing to the A/g Electoral Commissioner Mr Jeff Pope by s47F @ 1:30pm – 2:30pm
 - **We are keen for your advice on how the Commissioner would like to use this time and who else will be attending.**
 - **As you know from our most recent engagements with Democracy Forward the last few months of 2024, there is a lot that week can cover and want to ensure we are prepared to meet the Commissioners interests.**
 - **Some suggested topics include:**
 - **executive level briefing on the cyber threat landscape (MTAC/MSTIC insights);**
 - **support for electoral preparations from the technical/customer support perspective;**
 - **content credentialling and pilot next steps;**
 - **synthetic media and AI related harms, including advice on how to respond to incidents**
 - **overview of the Democracy Forward visit program including training for political campaigns and journalists;**
 - **update on implementation of the Tech Accord (as per correspondence this month)**
 - **any other topics of interest**

○

- Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT) x s47F @ 3:00pm – 4:00pm
 - Insights into US and global elections.
 - Advances in AI and its effect on democracy.
 - Key malign or conspiracy narratives or methods especially if they are new or a new version.
 - Effective methods for reaching voters with the right information.

Thank you this list of topics is great and very useful for s47F preparations.
It would be great to have a list of attendees, or at least Departments/Agencies that will be represented if possible.
While we only have an hour, if there are any scenario based-exercises or planning that we can prepare in order to provide practical support to the EIAT in its preparations, please let us know.
We would have time in s47F program to extend this meeting to 90 mins to accommodate this if that was of interest.

On another note, we would love to arrange a meeting between LinkedIn (or any relevant Microsoft representatives) and the EIAT ahead of our 2025 federal election to discuss appropriate referral pathways, online content of concern to the AEC, etc. Are you able to assist us in contacting the relevant people for this? **We have the same single escalation mechanism established for both LI and MSFT as previous electoral events and will channel all queries through this one mechanism. However, we would be happy to facilitate an introduction to s47F at LI. Let's discuss next week when we see you.**

We are very excited for next week and look forward to hearing back from you. Thank you for all your help in organising, it has been much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

s47F | Project Officer
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
DDU Line: **s47E** Direct Line: **s47F**
Email: **s47F**



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From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 2:20 PM
To: s 47F
Subject: Key Highlights from the Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2024

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear s47F

I hope this email finds you well. I thought that this email may be of interest to members of the EIAT and I would welcome you passing it on.

I am writing to share some critical insights from the recently published [Microsoft Digital Defense Report 2024](#), which outlines the evolving cybersecurity landscape and the imperative actions required to safeguard our digital domains. This year's report also has a focus on AI and cybersecurity.

The depth and breadth of Microsoft's presence in the digital ecosystem offers a unique perspective that we share in this report. Every day we process more than 78 trillion security signals and our customers face more than 600 million cybercriminal and nation-state attacks.

As useful starting points, I'd recommend the [Executive Summary for Governments and Policymakers](#) and [blogpost](#) from s47F, Corporate Vice President for Customer Security and Trust.

Key Highlights:

- The lines between nation state actors and cybercriminals are increasingly blurred; nation states are now using cybercriminals and their tools to launch attacks.
- Nation state activity was heavily concentrated around sites of active military conflict or regional tension.
- Russia, Iran and China all engaged in election influence efforts this year, with the three actors converging on the upcoming US elections.
- Fraud and financially motivated cybercrime remains on the rise.
- Cybercriminals are experimenting with AI as an efficiency tool.

You may also be particularly interested in the section on election interference at pp 24-26.

Microsoft will continue to strengthen its security posture via its Secure Future Initiative (SFI), collaborate with the public and private sector to deter cybercrime and advocate for international rules and norms to govern responsible use of cyber online.

We look forward to continuing to engage with you closely on these important issues



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s47F
www.microsoft.com

Mob: s47F

s22

s22

From: Jeff Pope s47E

Sent: Friday, 10 January 2025 1:57 PM

To: Michael Lynch s47E; Matthew Haigh s47E; s47F

s47F ; s47F Andrew Johnson
s47E ; Thomas Ryan s47F ; Kath Gleeson
s47E
Cc: s47F Rebecca Main s47E ; Rachael Spalding
s47E
Subject: Letter from Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Folks

I have received the attached response from the CEO Microsoft Australia to my letter to tech companies in mid-December seeking their ongoing commitment to the AI Accord they signed in Munich in 2024.



Jeff Pope APM
Acting Electoral Commissioner

Australian Electoral Commission
T: s47E

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Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral
Commissioner, Canberra



Mr Jeff Pope APM
Acting Electoral Commissioner
Australian Electoral Commission
via email: s47F [REDACTED]

Microsoft's commitment to the 'AI Elections Accord' and Australia's upcoming Federal Election

Dear Mr Pope

Thank you for your letter of 17 December 2024. Please see below an update from Microsoft on measures implemented to meet the commitments agreed to as a signatory of the *Tech Accord to Combat Deceptive Use of AI in 2024 Elections*.

Since the adoption of the Tech Accord in February 2024, Microsoft has made significant strides to prevent the creation of deceptive AI targeting elections, enhance detection and response capabilities, and improve transparency and public awareness.

Microsoft's Democracy Forward team works closely with campaigns, electoral commissions and other entities around the world to support the integrity of the elections, and Microsoft's Threat Analysis Center (MTAC) analyses nation-state threats to provide intelligence and insights on cyberattacks and influence operations. In 2024, this took us to a range of jurisdictions, including Taiwan, India, the UK, the EU and the US.

We are bringing this same approach to the forthcoming Australian federal election in 2025.

We are committed to a set of [election protection principles](#) to help safeguard voters, candidates and campaigns, and election authorities worldwide. These principles are:

- Voters have a right to transparent and authoritative information regarding elections.
- Candidates should be able to assert when content originates from their campaign and have recourse when their likeness or content is distorted by AI for the purpose of deceiving the public during the course of an election.
- Political campaigns should protect themselves from cyber threats and be able to navigate AI with access to affordable and easily deployed tools, trainings, and support.
- Election authorities should be able to ensure a secure and resilient election process and have access to tools and services that enable this process.

Further to our [September 2024 progress update](#), this document sets out further detail on the steps we have and are taking to implement the Accord in the lead-up to Australia's federal election in 2025.



Addressing Deepfake Creation

We recognise that companies whose products are used to create AI generated content have a responsibility to ensure images and videos generated from their systems include indicators of their origin. One way to accomplish this is through content provenance, enabled by an open standard created by the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA). Microsoft is a founding member of C2PA and has leveraged this standard (“Content Credentials”) across several of our products, ensuring that AI generated content is marked as such and that the creator and timestamp of images is recorded.

Specifically, Microsoft has added Content Credentials to all images created with our most popular consumer facing AI image generation tools, including Bing Image Creator, Microsoft Designer, Copilot, and in our enterprise API image generation tools including Azure OpenAI DALL-E. We recently started testing a Content Credentials display in Word. When images with Content Credentials are inserted into Word documents, future viewers will be able to right click and see the credits and author information of these images. In addition, images with Content Credentials uploaded to LinkedIn are automatically labeled and the credential information is shown to end users.

As important as it is to mark content as AI generated, a healthy information ecosystem relies on other indicators of authenticity as well. We launched and expanded our Content Integrity Tools to support global elections in 2024 - through the creation of a pilot program that allows political campaigns, elections authorities, and select news media organizations globally, to access a tool that enables them to easily apply Content Credentials to their own authentic images and videos.

We also joined forces with fellow Tech Accord signatory Truepic. Microsoft and Truepic have jointly released an app that simplifies the process of adding Content Credentials to authentically captured smartphone camera images, video, and audio for participants of the pilot. This app has now launched for both Android and Apple devices and can be used by those enrolled in Content Credentials program.

Detecting and Responding to Deepfakes

Microsoft is harnessing the data science and technical capabilities of our AI for Good Lab and Microsoft Threat Analysis Centre (MTAC) teams to better assess whether content—including that created and disseminated by foreign actors—is synthetic or not. Microsoft’s AI for Good lab has developed and is using detection models (image, video) to assess whether media was generated or manipulated by AI. We can use this detection capability in the context of election campaigns to support integrity.

We are also working with our partners at True Media to provide governments, civil society and journalists with access to free tools that enable them to check whether an image or video was AI generated and/or manipulated. Microsoft’s contribution includes providing True Media with access to Microsoft classifiers, tools, personnel, and data. These contributions will enable True Media to train AI detection models, share relevant data, evaluate and refine new detection models as well as provide feedback on quality and classification methodologies.



We are also empowering candidates, campaigns and election authorities to help us detect and respond to deceptive AI that is targeting elections. In February we launched the Microsoft-2024 Elections site. This site empowers candidates, campaigns or election authorities to directly report deceptive AI election content on Microsoft consumer services. This reporting tool allows for 24/7 reporting by impacted election entities who have been targeted by deceptive AI found on Microsoft platforms.

Transparency and Resilience

In advance of the EU elections we kicked off a global effort to engage campaigns and elections authorities. This enabled us to deepen understanding of the possible risks of deceptive AI in elections and empower those campaigns and election officials to speak directly to their voters about these risks and the steps they can take to build resilience and increase confidence in the election. So far this year we have conducted more than 200 training sessions for political stakeholders in 23 countries, reaching more than 6,000 participants. We are working closely with the Australian Electoral Commission along with political and media stakeholders in Australia, to provide support in preparation for the next federal election.

Building on this training, we have established a public website entitled “Check, Recheck, Vote,” which educates voters of the possible risks posed by deepfakes and empowers them to take steps to identify trusted sources of election information, look for indicators of trust like content provenance, and pause before they link to or share election content. This includes our ‘Real or Not?’ Quiz, developed by our AI for Good lab to expose users to the challenges of detecting a possible deepfake. So far, individuals from 150+ countries have taken the quiz. We are exploring similar activities in Australia.

Protecting Campaign and Election Infrastructure

Since the 2016 US election, adversaries have regularly targeted essential systems that support elections and campaigns in the US to advance their cyber enabled influence operations. Recent Iranian hacking incidents involved attempts by these actors to provide stolen or allegedly stolen material to the media to propagate narratives of dissent and distrust. This underscores why we continue to invest in efforts that focus on safeguarding the critical infrastructure that underpins our elections.

Our efforts include several initiatives designed to support election officials and political organizations. First, we offer AccountGuard, a no-cost cybersecurity service available to our cloud email customers in 35 countries, including Australia. This service provides advanced threat detection and notifications against nation-state adversaries for high-risk customers, including those involved in elections. AccountGuard extends beyond commercial customers to individuals at election organizations, their affiliates, and immediate family members who may use personal Microsoft accounts for email. We have observed that sophisticated adversaries often target both professional and personal accounts, amplifying the need for comprehensive protection. More than 5.4 million mailboxes of high-risk users are now protected by AccountGuard globally.



For critical election-adjacent systems, such as voter registration databases and voter information portals, we provide our Azure for Election service. This service provides proactive security reviews, resilience assessments, and load analysis. During the election week, we offer our highest tier of reactive support to address any security or availability issues that may arise.

In the upcoming election in Australia, as per previous federal and state electoral events, we establish a dedicated escalation point staffed by our team to provide constant management and triage of any election-sensitive issues and maintain real-time communications across our industry partners. This ensured that any incidents received the highest level of priority and executive support.

While we continue to provide robust security services, we recognize that collaboration is essential. Public-private partnerships are crucial in strengthening the entire ecosystem. For example, our Democracy Forward team actively participates in tabletop cybersecurity training exercises convened by US election officials.

Microsoft remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting the security and integrity of democratic processes. Through our comprehensive programs and collaborative efforts, we aim to protect democracy from the evolving threats posed by nation-state actors.

We look forward to supporting the AEC during the upcoming electoral period, including through the visit to Canberra in late January by executives from our Democracy Forward team.

Yours sincerely

s47F

Director, Corporate External and Legal Affairs
Microsoft Australia and New Zealand
9 January 2025

s22

From: Defending Democracy Unit s47E
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2024 11:39 AM
To: s47F
Subject: FW: Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s47F | Assistant Director

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

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s 47F
s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 4:28 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit ; s47F
Subject: RE: Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly. I'll discuss with the right teams and get back to you as suggested.

Cheers,

s47F | Assistant Director

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

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F
s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 3:28 PM
To: s47F ; s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit s47E ; s47F
Subject: Re: Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks, all!

Honestly, all I need is a spreadsheet of names. And you're welcome to update it regularly. Ideally it would be prominent figures plus federal candidates, but we'll leave that to you to decide.

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2024 5:57:42 PM
To: s47F; s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s47E; s47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

That's great, thanks so much s47F.

Cheers,

s47F | Assistant Director
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F
s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Wednesday, 16 October 2024 11:52 AM
To: s47F; s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s47E; s47F
Subject: RE: Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thank you s47F for reaching out.

I am adding s47F to advise on how we take this forward, as he will lead this effort from our headquarters.

Best

s47F



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 15 October 2024 5:48 PM

To: s47F

Cc: Defending Democracy Unit s47E

s47F

s47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for information: blocking Microsoft AI image generation of specific AEC employees [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

I hope this email finds you well.

At our last two Microsoft meetings we have been offered the opportunity to have prominent people (such as our Electoral Commissioner, Tom Rogers) blocked from having their image created on Microsoft's AI image generating tools.

There is interest in this from some of our executive so I am reaching out for more information, including what you would need from us to make this happen.

I'd be grateful for any information or direction you could provide, and very happy to chat further if needed.

Kind regards,

s47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F

s47F

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Subject: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location: Teams link to be sent

Start: Wed 12/03/2025 9:30 AM
End: Wed 12/03/2025 10:30 AM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organiser: EIAT

Required Attendees: s47F; Matthew Haigh; s47F; s47F; s47F

Hi again all,

Scheduling meeting for this time as per email.

Cheers,

s47F

s47F **Assistant Director**

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

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F
s47F

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Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral
Commissioner, Canberra

Subject:	Microsoft briefing to EIAT [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Location:	AEC Office - 10-12 Mort Street, Canberra ACT 2601; NO - Rapid Response
Start:	Mon 23/09/2024 3:00 PM
End:	Mon 23/09/2024 4:00 PM
Show Time As:	Tentative
Recurrence:	(none)
Meeting Status:	Not yet responded
Organiser:	EIAT
Required Attendees:	Michael Lynch; s47F; s47F; s47E

Organiser: EIAT

Required Attendees: Michael Lynch; s47F ; s47F ; s47E
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; EIAT Secretariat; s 47E ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; Matt Haigh; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
Optional Attendees:
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;
s47F ; s47F ; s47F ;

Good afternoon EIAT colleagues,

s47F [REDACTED] from Microsoft's Democracy Forward team will be visiting Canberra on Monday 23 September and has offered to provide the EIAT with an in-person briefing. According to the Democracy Forward team, their focus is on:

- safeguarding open and secure democratic processes
- promoting a healthy information ecosystem
- advocating for corporate civic responsibility

This meeting is optional for taskforce members and will take the form of a presentation by s47F followed by roundtable type discussion.

We would appreciate a response to this invitation, including which member/s of your agency will be attending, by COB Wednesday, 18 September.

Kind regards,

ElAT Secretariat
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: s47E M: s47E

s22

From: s47F
Sent: Friday, 24 January 2025 4:31 PM
To: s47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s47F s47F
Subject: Microsoft Democracy Forward | Thank You for Your Engagement
Attachments: Best Practices for combating abusive media and deepfakes.pdf
Categories: s47F s47F

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear s47F and DDU

On behalf of s47F and s47F I wanted to express our gratitude for the opportunity to meet with you on January 22nd. The discussions we had with the AEC Cyber Branch, ACSC, the EIAT, and the AEC Executive were highly valuable and productive.

As discussed with the Acting Commissioner, we will arrange a follow up security briefing in coming months and look forward to speaking with your team about content escalation response mechanisms.

As promised in the Cyber briefing, also sharing some links for more information on AccountGuard and Democracy Forward:

[Microsoft AccountGuard](#)

[Democracy Forward - Protecting Democracy | Microsoft CSR](#)

Also sharing the soft copy of the deepfake response plan handout we shared.

We truly value the collaboration with AEC. We look forward to continuing our partnership and working together to protect the integrity of our elections in Australia.

Best

s47F



s47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s47F

www.microsoft.com

Mob: s47F

Best Practices for combating abusive media and deepfakes

Summary

The document is a guide for political campaigns to deal with the threat of abusive or deceptive media and deepfakes, especially during elections.

Detecting and reporting abusive media

- Educate staff and volunteers on identifying abusive or deceptive media.
- Monitor news and social media for potentially abusive manipulations.
- Document incidents using screenshots and archiving services.

Responding to abusive or deceptive media incidents

- Assess the threat.
- Utilize platform tools and policies.
- Issue initial statements.
- Engage with social media channels, supporters, allies, and opponents.
- Collaborate with news outlets and journalists.

Strategies for preventing abusive or deceptive media

- Adopt content credentialing technologies to verify authenticity.
- Stay informed about platform policies and content moderation tools.
- Maintain credibility and integrity in communication.

Leveraging big technology (Microsoft)

- Create indexed media repositories.
- Establish a “honeypot” and utilize Defender Office 365.
- Utilize Enterprise secure content management for credentialing.
- Employ classified secure access sites for sharing and collaboration.

Conclusion

- Remain vigilant, prepared, and proactive against abusive or deceptive media and deepfake disinformation.
- Contribute to an informed and resilient public discourse, safeguarding the democratic process and upholding truth.

Introduction

Generative AI has emerged as a transformative technology, unleashing a wave of creativity across various domains. While groundbreaking, these capabilities carry significant potential for misuse, and there is widespread concern about the implications of these advancements on the creation and dissemination of disinformation.

Political elections are especially vulnerable to abusive or deceptive media, facilitated by advancements like deepfakes and voice cloning. Generative AI tools reduce the effort required to create convincing synthetic content. Political campaigns, regardless of scale, must remain vigilant against these threats.

As a result, it's critical for campaigns to build a 'Deep-Fake Response Plan' to ensure that the organization is prepared in the event of an incident. At Microsoft, we believe it's up to each campaign how they respond, but we are here to help offer the best guidance/best practices when building this plan.

Microsoft is dedicated to taking action to uphold the integrity of the electoral process across the globe. In February 2024, Microsoft played a pivotal role in the [Tech accord to combat deceptive use of AI in 2024 elections](#), a significant initiative that brought together the technology sector under a unified banner. Through this accord, industry leaders made tangible, voluntary commitments to safeguard elections scheduled to occur in over 65 nations worldwide from March to the end of the year.

Detection



Education and awareness

Educate campaign staff and volunteers on identifying abusive or deceptive media. Establish transparent processes for reporting potentially abusive or deceptive manipulations, particularly on less visible platforms or non-English content. Encourage vigilance, particularly within communities using walled-garden apps like WhatsApp and Telegram.



Media monitoring

Use Google alerts, media monitoring tools, and manual scanning to monitor news and social media for abusive or deceptive content.



Documenting incidents

Correctly record incidents using screenshots and archiving services. Public archive services such as archive.org or archive.today can provide credible evidence for debunking abusive or deceptive media, offering verification by third parties such as journalists.

Response

Responding to a abusive or deceptive media incident involves striking a careful balance between alerting the public and avoiding amplifying the misleading content. Here, we outline seven steps your campaign can take in response to a abusive or deceptive media attack.



Assess the threat

Detecting abusive or deceptive media is just the beginning; the crucial step is promptly assessing its risk level and crafting an appropriate response. Neglecting this can lead to the unchecked spread of false narratives, escalating an already challenging situation. Conversely, an overreaction risks amplifying the content, triggering the notorious "[Streisand effect](#)."

To start, evaluate the content's potential impact. While a campaign may dislike AI-generated parodies of their candidate, an aggressive response risks being seen as humorless or suppressing free speech. Objectivity is critical, though challenging. Reviewing the context—platform, tone, and responses—can clarify whether the content is meant humorously or as a factual statement.

		Likelihood of disinformation, inauthentic, or coordinated behaviour		
		High	Medium	Low
Likelihood of losing votes	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask for retraction• Press conference• Public statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activate supporter networks to push back• Consider public statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activate supporter networks to push back• Positive digital messaging
	Medium	Activate supporter networks to push back	Activate supporter networks to push back	Positive digital messaging
	Low	Nothing	Nothing	Nothing

**Credit: "How campaigns can protect themselves from deepfakes, disinformation, and social media manipulation" by Lisa Kaplan, January 10, 2019, [brookings.edu](#)*

For content not warranting a serious response, options include ignoring it while monitoring for escalation or responding in a lighthearted manner, which can turn a negative into a positive. However, if the content crosses ethical or legal boundaries, swift and unified action is necessary to contain its spread and control the narrative.

In the age of viral misinformation, being proactive is essential. By promptly addressing false claims, you establish your version of events as the initial narrative, potentially inoculating audiences against subsequent misinformation.

2 Utilize platform tools and policies

To manage abusive or deceptive content on social platforms effectively, start by familiarizing yourself with each platform's content moderation policies and tools. Different platforms enforce varying policies, particularly concerning unlabelled AI-generated content in political contexts.

When you spot content violating these policies, promptly report it using the platform's moderation features, typically found as a "report" option on posts. However, keep in mind a few key points:

- Even if content is removed, it is likely to be re-uploaded, sometimes in altered forms, necessitating ongoing monitoring and reporting.

Assign one team member to lead the identification and reporting of incidents of abusive or deceptive content. Establish a process for regular review of both original posts and any amplified dissemination. Meanwhile, your campaign team can continue with subsequent response steps. For Top Platform Policies see Appendix

3 Issue initial statements

When confronted with abusive or deceptive media, initiating an immediate statement is pivotal. This initial response demands clarity and composure, centering on factual data that directly dismantles the falsehoods without amplifying the abusive or deceptive content. Broad dissemination of this statement is essential, spanning all platforms and mediums to encompass every facet of your audience, transcending the point of origin. For example, a real video of the candidate might be an important response to a deep fake video. The primary aim is promptly restoring confidence and providing accurate insights, setting the stage for subsequent meticulous and strategic measures.

4 Utilize social media channels

Enhance your response strategy by leveraging social media channels effectively. Begin by prioritizing the platform where the misleading content originated, then broaden your reach across similar platforms. For example, if the content surfaced on TikTok, extend your response to Instagram due to their shared user base.

Consistency in messaging is key across all platforms, while delivery methods must be adapted to suit each platform's style and audience demographics.

Engage your audience through interactive tactics such as live video streams or Q&A sessions. Direct interaction allows for real-time addressing of concerns, empowering you to steer the narrative and effectively counteract misinformation.

5 Engage with supporters and allies

Don't underestimate the impact of teamwork. Engaging with allies means boosting the right message together. Encourage allies to share accurate information and issue supportive statements, building a network of truth.

Empower supporters to engage in constructive, fact-driven discussions. Equip them with tools to counter misinformation effectively. Keep the conversation flowing with your audience by providing regular updates on developments and campaign actions. This transparency builds trust and reinforces your stance against false information.

Having your network of surrogates and influencers in place and ready for an incident will save time if one occurs.

6 Engage with opponents

Engaging with your campaign's adversaries on the topic of abusive or deceptive media demands strategic forethought. It's vital to refrain from attributing the creation or spread of abusive or deceptive content to your opponent unless solid evidence exists. Keep in mind that campaigns lack full control over their supporters, and baseless accusations may harm your campaign's image and could lead to legal ramifications.

A more prudent approach involves urging your opponent to publicly denounce any abusive or deceptive content and unite in combating disinformation.

7 Work with news outlets and journalists

Strengthening ties with local media outlets and journalists, particularly within your campaign district, is paramount long before any abusive or deceptive media incident arises. These established connections facilitate swift dissemination of your narrative in critical moments. Prioritize engagement with journalists specializing in detecting and debunking abusive or deceptive media.

When engaging with the news media, prioritize communicating your message directly to your constituents rather than becoming entangled in national political discourse. Enlisting communication experts can offer in-depth analysis of abusive or deceptive media, bolstering the credibility of your response.

Effectively presenting your case to journalists and media requires careful organization:

- Establish a timeline of events detailing the encounter with abusive or deceptive media and any campaign or platform responses.
- Utilize visual aids, such as side-by-side comparisons, to clearly illustrate manipulation.
- Provide credible references directing journalists to verifiable information or original content that refutes the abusive or deceptive material.

Additionally, incorporating personal anecdotes or testimonials from those impacted by the abusive or deceptive media can forge emotional connections with the audience, enhancing resonance beyond factual arguments alone.

Preparation and prevention

Preventing the malicious use of deepfake and generative AI technology presents a significant challenge. While major commercial platforms have imposed usage restrictions, open-source models and alternative platforms often lack such controls. To address this, initiatives like the [Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity](#) (C2PA), in which Microsoft played an instrumental role, are pioneering technologies enabling creators to embed digital signatures in media, verifying their authenticity and origin. Microsoft's Content Integrity tool simplifies credentialing, allowing users to add verifiable signatures to their content. For more information, contact us at campaignsuccess@microsoft.com

While C2PA doesn't directly prevent the spread of inauthentic content, it enhances preparedness by promoting verified content, facilitating easier differentiation from abusive or deceptive media. Campaigns can proactively incorporate content credentialing into their workflows, ensuring all released media contains authentic signatures.

Additionally, campaigns must stay informed about social media policies and reporting mechanisms for abusive or deceptive content. Understanding platform nuances is essential for effectively navigating the digital landscape.

Maintaining credibility is crucial when combating disinformation. Campaigns must uphold integrity and transparency to preserve their moral standing, as ethical lapses can undermine their ability to confront attacks convincingly. Upholding ethical practices is paramount for campaigns seeking credibility in the face of disinformation.

Another effective method for preparing campaigns involves staying abreast of the latest developments and advancements in the field. This can be achieved by actively engaging with organizations such as [Defending Digital Campaigns](#), which specialize in safeguarding campaigns against various digital threats and challenges.

Conclusion

To tackle abusive or deceptive media and deepfake disinformation, campaigns and organizations must be vigilant, prepared, and proactive. By grasping the landscape, readying for potential attacks, educating teams, and deploying effective legal and communication tactics, you can lessen the impact of these digital deceptions. Addressing individual incidents and fostering integrity, transparency, and critical thinking within your audience is crucial. This cultivates a more resilient public discourse, defending against disinformation's spread. Our strategies must evolve as technology advances to safeguard truth and uphold the democratic process.

s22

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 3:10 PM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F; s47F
Subject: RE: Administrative/logistics for tomorrow's meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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That all sounds great, thank you.

Responses in line.



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s47F
www.microsoft.com
Mob: s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 2:09 PM
To: s47F
Cc: s47F; s47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Administrative/logistics for tomorrow's meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi again s47F

A couple of questions/points in preparation for your visit tomorrow:

- Will s47F (or you) need access to the AEC's Wi-Fi? **I think this would be very useful for s47F thank you. I can hotspot if I need internet.**
- Teams link for the EIAT meeting at 3pm is below. **Noted with thanks**
- I will invite you to a group (with myself and s47F on Signal so you can either message us when you are ready to come into the building or contact us on one of the following numbers: **Noted with thanks. I am on Signal – 0466 221 283**
 - DDU group line s47E
 - Skye desk phone s47F
 - Tanya desk phone s47F
 - If all else fails, the security guards at the front should be able to help. You will need to check in with them in any case at the beginning of the day.
- s47F in relation to your kind offer to extend our meeting to 4.30pm, potentially to run over some scenarios, we will be sending a reminder email to TF attendees this afternoon and will let them know they are welcome to stay on until 4.30pm if they are available.
 - The TF agencies are currently reviewing a draft of a proposed set of scenarios the DDU has put together, and these are due to be circulated to platforms (including Microsoft) in the next few weeks. To avoid confusion, I might suggest using the extra time for round table type discussion and questions – I think we will have plenty to keep us busy in this regard! **Great, we will plan to stay until 4:30 and I will talk to s47F tomorrow about having some scenarios ready to discuss if the conversation goes that way. He is very experienced and running these sessions, so won't be a problem to do "on the fly" so to speak.**

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#) - scheduled for 22 January 2025 @3pm to 4.30pm.

Meeting ID: s47E

Passcode: s47E

Dial in by phone

s47E # Australia, Sydney

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: s47E

Cheers,

s47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F

s47F



From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 11:38 AM

To: s47F

s47F

Cc: s47F

s47F

s47F

Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F

Confirming there will be a Teams link available for use in the room.

Kind regards

s47F | Executive Officer to the Acting Electoral Commissioner

Executive Leadership Team

Australian Electoral Commission

T: s47F



From: s47F
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 11:28 AM
To: s47F s47F
Cc: s47F s47F s47F
Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s47F and s47F

Given the topics and audience, s47F will prepare a few slides to present if we can ensure he can connect up to a teams link from the room.

Best

s47F



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s47F
www.microsoft.com
Mob: s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:47 PM
To: s47F s47F
Cc: s47F s47F s47F
Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks everyone. That change is noted with thanks.

s47F and I will attend in person, with members of the AEC Account Team to also attend. I am confirming who this will be but will ensure we can cover off on the topics outlined below.

We will still come along at 11 for the meeting with the Cyber Branch, then can take s47F for lunch to be back and checked in for the 1:30 start.

Looking forward to these discussions.

Best

s47F



s47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s47F
www.microsoft.com
Mob: s47F

From: s47F

Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:34 PM

To: s47F s47F

Cc: s47F s47F s47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F and s47F

Thanks for confirming these details, the calendar invite has now been updated to reflect the combined meeting.

The meeting time will be 1:30pm Canberra time.

Kind regards

s47F | Executive Officer to the Acting Electoral Commissioner

Executive Leadership Team
Australian Electoral Commission

T: s47F



From: s47F

Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:23 PM

To: s47F s47F

Cc: s47F s47F s 47F

Subject: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s47F and s47F

Just wanted to close the loop on a suggested change to the schedule of Microsoft meetings here on Wednesday. If this has already been addressed, then please disregard.

Given it has been suggested that the meetings with the CIOD (Tania Wilson's area) and the EC (Jeff) be combined into one meeting for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), I just wanted to make sure s47F and s47F had enough time to prepare/make adjustments and to confirm what time the combined meeting would take place.

If the meetings are to be combined, then the agenda would include existing items prepared for the CIO and the following items that the EC is interested in:

- Executive level briefing on Cyber threat landscape (MTAC/MSTIC insights)
- Synthetic media - including AI and the practical application of detecting / content provenance + credentialing / Microsoft's 'AI for good lab' initiative.

- Mis/disinformation and Microsoft's efforts in this space, especially media and digital literacy.
- Insights from elections in other geographies, for example major common themes / concerns

Potentially in addition to some, or all, of the following items suggested by s47F (time permitting):

- support for electoral preparations from the technical/customer support perspective;
- content credentialling and pilot next steps;
- synthetic media and AI related harms, including advice on how to respond to incidents
- overview of the Democracy Forward visit program including training for political campaigns and journalists;
- update on implementation of the Tech Accord (as per correspondence this month)
- any other topics of interest

s47F – if not already aware, please let us know if any issues with this change.

s47F and s47F – let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Cheers,

s47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s47F 951 | DDU Group Line: s47E | Protected email: s47F

s47F



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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 7 March 2025 4:13 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Follow up from this morning and question about Microsoft US [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

In response to the query below, Microsoft is currently working on our response to subpoena, consistent with our commitment to compliance with local laws.

I hope you and the team enjoy the weekend.

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, 5 March 2025 3:44 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit <s 47E>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow up from this morning and question about Microsoft US [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Following up on our conversation from earlier, it looks like our Communications colleagues have been working on this, and I believe s 47F may now already have spoken to you. Let me know if not and I'd be happy to chase up again.

Also, not sure if this is information you are able to share, but we are aware of Microsoft being one of the recipients of a subpoena from the US House Judiciary [Chairman Jordan Subpoenas Big Tech for Information on Foreign Censorship of American Speech | House Judiciary Committee Republicans](#) and would like to know if you can tell us the due date.

As you know, with the election coming up, it would be good to understand timelines and therefore be prepared if we are asked questions once information is released. There are plenty of other things we can be doing if it won't be an issue until after the election!

Happy to discuss if that's easier and understand if you can't answer.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: **s 47F** | DDU Group Line: **s 47E** | Protected email: **s 47F**

My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday



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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 10 February 2025 9:03 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit
Subject: Re: For action: LinkedIn meeting placeholder and list of AEC names to block from AI tools [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks s 47F

Adding my colleague s 47F from LinkedIn. I am on leave on 21 February but another day that week or the following would work well. I think it would be helpful for us both to attend.

I will pass on those names to Dave to action - thank you.

Best

s 47F

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 8:58:34 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Subject: [EXTERNAL] For action: LinkedIn meeting placeholder and list of AEC names to block from AI tools [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

Good morning s 47F

I hope this email finds you well!

Following up on a couple of items. First, setting up a meeting with LinkedIn reps. I have put a placeholder in Matt's calendar for 1:00 to 2:00pm Friday, 21 February 2025 which I will send through shortly. Please let me know if this works, otherwise can look for other times that are suitable.

Also, we have compiled a list of names we think would be prudent to have actioned so that their likeness cannot be reproduced using Microsoft's AI tools. List as follows.

Name	Role/position
Tom Rogers	Former Electoral Commissioner
Jeff Pope	a/g Electoral Commissioner
Kath Gleeson	a/g Deputy Electoral Commissioner and National Election Manager
Michael Lynch	FAC EIOG and National Incident Manager
Thomas Ryan	FAC ETG
Rachael Spalding	FAC Enabling and Regulation Group

Tania Wilson	FAC Chief Information Officer Division
Rhianne Jory	FAC Enterprise Strategy and Transformation Group
Angus Kirkwood	FAC Service Delivery Group
s 47F	NSW/ACT State Manager
s 47F	VIC State Manager
s 47F	QLD State Manager
s 47F	WA State Manager
s 47F	SA State Manager
s 47F	TAS State Manager
s 47F	NT Territory Manager
s 47F	Principal Media Advisor
s 47F	Media spokesperson
s 47F	Appeared in AEC video about postal voting
s 47F	Media spokesperson

Please let me know if you need any further info.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

Federal election work

100,000 paid jobs.
Work before, on and after the day.

Register today



AEC
Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral
Commissioner, Canberra

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 5:14 PM
To: s 47F
: AEC MSFT engagements on Wed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks s 47F – let's use the other chain to avoid confusion, will close this one out!

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 5:13 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: For advice: AEC MSFT engagements on Wed [SEC=OFFICIAL]

s 47F

Thank you very much for forwarding this through, we are very synched by the looks of it!

For your reference, s 47F is still away and will be back this coming Monday. I will work to add any missing information from my earlier email (as requested below) and send to you tomorrow. More than happy to call tomorrow or on Monday to discuss anything further. Thank you again for all of your help.

I hope your travels are safe and enjoyable s 47F

Kind Regards,

s 47F (She/Her) | Project Officer
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
DDU Line: s 47E s 47F
Email: s 47F

[Redacted]

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:57 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: For advice: AEC MSFT engagements on Wed

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

Our emails passed in the ether! Let me review yours now, but sharing mine below.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:15 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: For advice: AEC MSFT engagements on Wed

Hi s 47F

We hope you are well – happy new year!

s 47F's visit is fast approaching. I have included him at cc so we can refine some details on desired content for the engagements with AEC on Wednesday.

1) Briefing with AEC Cyber Branch with ASD and ACSC

- a. s 47F has been working with our colleagues in the Microsoft Threat Analysis Centre (MTAC) and the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Centre (MSTIC) on latest shareable threat insights which he will share.
- b. Our colleague s 47F from MSTIC, s 47G, will also join this meeting.
- c. s 47F can also share the latest on cybersecurity best practice and other technical supports.
- d. Is there anything in particular that you would like to cover?
- e. Is it possible to share the list of attendees?

2) Briefing with the AEC Acting Commissioner

- a. We are keen for your advice on how the Commissioner would like to use this time and who else will be attending.
- b. As you know from our most recent engagements with Democracy Forward the last few months of 2024, there is a lot that week can cover and want to ensure we are prepared to meet the Commissioners interests.
- c. Some suggested topics include:
 - i. executive level briefing on the cyber threat landscape (MTAC/MSTIC insights);
 - ii. support for electoral preparations from the technical/customer support perspective;
 - iii. content credentialling and pilot next steps;
 - iv. synthetic media and AI related harms, including advice on how to respond to incidents
 - v. overview of the Democracy Forward visit program including training for political campaigns and journalists;
 - vi. update on implementation of the Tech Accord (as per correspondence this month)
 - vii. any other topics of interest

3) Briefing with EIAT

- a. As per s 47F's visit, this discussion can be shaped as it best suits the interests of the Taskforce.
- b. It would be great to have a list of attendees, or at least Departments/Agencies that will be represented.

- c. Some suggested topics include:
 - i. Executive level briefing of the cyber threat landscape
 - ii. Insights on US election, especially final months of campaign (update since s 47F's visit)
 - iii. Reflections on AI related harms and impact on elections across 2024
 - iv. Overview of the Democracy Forward visit program including training for political campaigns and journalists
 - v. update on implementation of the Tech Accord (as per correspondence this month)
 - vi. any other topics of interest
- d. While we only have an hour, if there are any other scenario based exercises or planning that we can prepare to support the EIAT with please let us know.
 - i. We would have time in Ethan's program to extend this meeting to 90 mins to accommodate this if that was of interest.

4) Briefing with Defending Democracy Branch

- a. You may have had enough of us by the end of the day, but we have time following the EIAT for a short meeting with your Branch if there is anything outstanding or more operational that you would like to cover while we are there.
- b. Please feel free to schedule 30 mins if that is something that would be valuable. We could also fit this in immediately before the Cyber Branch meeting if a pre-brief in person was useful.

I have not included the CIO meeting above, which is scheduled and being led by our account team who will join s 47F for that meeting.

I am offline tomorrow but happy to connect by phone on Monday. That being said, if you can, a short written response would be helpful for s 47F's visibility as he flies over the weekend.

We are looking forward to these engagements.

Best

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 12:28 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit
Subject: RE: For information: New MTAC Report on US election [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning both,

Thanks so much for the heads up, will pass along accordingly.

s 47E

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F
My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 28 October 2024 12:17 PM
To: s 47F
Subject: Re: For information: New MTAC Report on US election

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s 47F s 22

s 22

Hope that's helpful!

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Sunday, October 27, 2024 9:10:13 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: For information: New MTAC Report on US election

Hi s 47F

The latest in the MTAC US Election series was released last week: [As the U.S. election nears, Russia, Iran and China step up influence efforts - Microsoft On the Issues](#)

It may be of interest to EIAT members.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2025 3:10 PM
To: s 47F
Subject: RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thank you so much s 47F



s 47F (she/her)
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2025 1:36 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
efending Democracy Unit s 47E ; s 47F
Subject: RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Happy New Year everyone!

I am wondering if you could please re-send the placeholder for the Cyber Briefing at 11-12pm on Wed 22 January?

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Best

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2024 5:30 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
; Defending Democracy Unit s 47E ; s 47F

s 47F

Subject: Re: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

That sounds great and yes please to inviting ASD and ACSC!

s 47F

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Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 2:49:07 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Defending Democracy Unit s 47E

; s 47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, 20 December 2024 10:52 AM

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; s 47F

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Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 6 January 2025 1:36 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s47F

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To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F Defending Democracy Unit; s 47E; s 47F

s 47F

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From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, 13 December 2024 9:18 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan

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From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2024 2:49 PM
To: Kate Seward (CELA)
Cc: s 47F Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: Canberra, Wed 22 Jan [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Defending Democracy Unit s 47E

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s 22

From: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Sent: Thursday, 26 September 2024 2:44 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Microsoft Democracy Forward: thank you

Hi s 47F

Thanks for getting in touch and for providing those documents. I've forwarded them to attendees and will let you know if there are any follow up questions.

It was good to have s 47F here in person to present- we agree that there was some good discussion and attendees obtained really useful insights. We also hope s 47F enjoyed his time in Australia!

There was interest in getting further information about the MSTIC cybersecurity insights, so I will wait to hear back from you. In the meantime, I'll let you know if there was anything further to follow up after we have had a chance to review our notes.

Kind regards,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, September 25, 2024 2:19 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit ; s 47F
Subject: Microsoft Democracy Forward: thank you

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Dear s 47F and the Defending Democracy Team

Thank you for bringing together members of the Electoral Integrity and Assurance Taskforce for a discussion with s 47F from Microsoft's Democracy Forward team during his visit to Australia. We very much appreciate you arranging and hosting this briefing.

We highly value our engagement with the Taskforce and we hope that this briefing was of value to members. We certainly found the discussion to be productive and insightful; we appreciated the contribution from the AEC and others around the table as we think deeply and collaboratively about preparing for the next federal election and incorporating lessons learned from global elections in 2024.

As promised, I have attached fact sheets on Democracy Forward and content credentialling for sharing with the group. Please also find [here](#) the Microsoft Threat Analysis Centre's recent report on Russian interference in the Harris campaign in the US. In this article you will find links to other MTAC reporting on the US elections. We are still working on how best to share the cybersecurity insights from MSTIC (Microsoft Threat Intelligence Community) that Dave discussed. We will come back to you.

Noting the discussion on how best to protect the electoral roll, I have asked s 47F to work with our colleague s 47F, the AEC Account Executive, on next steps with the CIOD.

Again, thank you for the partnership on these important issues. Please let us know how we can assist the Taskforce further in the coming months.

Best

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 2:02 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: Re: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Thanks so much, s 47F We've received the invite and look forward to meeting with you all.

Best wishes,
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 11:27:47 am
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit; s 47E
s 47F
Subject: RE: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

That's fantastic, thanks for getting back to me. Updated calendar invite coming your way shortly.

Please do reach out if you want to check or discuss anything prior to the meeting, otherwise we'll see you on 12 March.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F
s 47F



From: s 47F
Sent: Wednesday, 26 February 2025 11:22 AM
To: Tanya Evans <tanya.evans@aec.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit
s 47E; s 47F

s 47F

Subject: Re: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

Thank you again for your kind patience. My colleague, s 47F (cc'd), will also join our call. 9:30am - 10:30 am on Wed 12th March works for us.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything further I can help with.

Kind regards,

s 47F

From: s 47F

Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 11:23 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Defending Democracy Unit

s 47E

, s 47F

Subject: RE: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi again,

Apologies, I was a bit hasty, the Chair has another meeting booked in for 10.30. If you are unable to make 0930 to 1030, I will see what I can do, but may need to offer another time.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

s 47F

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Australian Electoral Commission

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Commissioner, Canberra

From: s 47F

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:20 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

; Defending Democracy Unit

s 47E

; s 47F

Subject: RE: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

No problem, meeting added at requested time and placeholder flag removed.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: **s 47F** | DDU Group Line: **s 47E** | Protected email: **s 47F**

s 47F



From: **s 47F**

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 11:17 AM

To: **s 47F**

Cc: **s 47F** Defending Democracy Unit

<s 47E **>; s 47F**

Subject: Re: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi **s 47F**

Thank you for your kind patience. Could you please hold Wed 12th March at 10am for us?

Kind regards,

s 47F

From: **s 47F**

Date: Tuesday, 25 February 2025 at 11:01 AM

To: **s 47F**

Cc: **s 47F** Defending Democracy Unit

s 47E **, s 47F**

Subject: RE: Placeholder: LinkedIn/EIAT meeting [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi **s 47F**

Taskforce member calendars are filling up, so I propose moving this meeting to next week or the week after. Proposing the following new times:

- Friday, 7 March 1pm to 2pm (I'll send a placeholder for this one shortly)
- Friday, 7 March 2pm to 3pm
- Wednesday, 12 March 9.30am to 10.30am
- Friday, 14 March 1pm to 2pm

Let me know what suits and I will check the Chair's calendar remains free.

Many thanks,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission



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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2024 1:42 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

My colleagues can join this call on Tuesday 23 July at 8am.

Could you please send a Teams invitation?

From our side, it will be the following:

- s 47F
- s 47F, Director, Information Integrity, s47F
- s 47F, Director Corporate Civic Responsibility, s47F
- s 47F (optional), Global Field Engagement and Strategy, s47F
- s 47F, Head of Government Affairs ANZ, s47F

Could you also please share any specific topics you would like us to address so the team can prepare for this call? It would be great to get this before the end of the week.

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 10:11 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit ; s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi again s 47F

No problem at all, we assumed you had a lot on your plate at the moment!

We have the following options available:

- 8am to 9am Tuesday, 23 July (PDT: 3pm Monday, 22 July)
- 8.30am to 9.30am Wednesday, 7 August (PDT: 3.30pm Tuesday, 6 August)
- 8.30am to 9.30am Thursday, 8 August (PDT: 3.30pm Wednesday, 7 August)
- 8.30am to 9.30am Friday, 9 August (PDT: 3.30pm Thursday, 8 August)

I have assumed your US based colleagues are on the west coast (and hopefully I have calculated the time difference correctly!).

Let me know which of these, if any, are suitable.

Cheers

s 47F

From: s 47F >
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:51 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F Defending Democracy Unit
s 47E s 47F
Subject: RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

My apologies for the delay – I appreciate the prompt as I have just come back from leave and this was on my list for this week!

Could you please share some more forward dates for me to then lock in with my colleagues?

And thank you for your patience. With some big electoral events internationally having now passed we should have more availability.

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2024 9:42 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F Defending Democracy Unit
s 47E s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s 47F

Following up on the below email chain. Have you had a chance to check for availabilities for a meeting with us? Let me know if there is anything I can do to assist- happy to look ahead and suggest some dates again.

Kind regards

s 47F | Assistant Director

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

Phone: **s 47F** | DDU Group Line: **s 47E** | Protected email: **s 47F**

From: **s 47F**

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 5:34 PM

To: Defending Democracy Unit **s 47E**

Cc: **s 47F**

Subject: RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks **s 47F** – I am checking with my colleagues and will come back to you shortly.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: Defending Democracy Unit **s 47E**

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 3:15 PM

To: **s 47F**

Cc: **s 47F**

Unit **s 47E**

Defending Democracy

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi **s 47F**

Of course, thanks for US public holiday reminder! In that case, the following week we have availability at the same time on Tuesday, 16 July (Monday 15 July for US).

Otherwise, some options the week after that on either 23 or 24 July AUS (22/23 July US).

Many thanks,

s 47F

s 47F (she/her) | Senior Project Officer
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
T: s 47F



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

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From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 5:00 PM
To: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks s 47F

Unfortunately, I am on leave that week and need to be part of the discussion also. Apologies for not foreshadowing.

How does the week after look for your team, to have some options to offer my colleagues? The week prior will clash with 4 July holidays.

Best

s 47F



Microsoft

s 47F (she/her)
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 4:55 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from s 47E [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi s 47F

No worries at all. Grateful for you checking in with the Democracy Forward team, and definitely understand what a busy time this must be for them. Hopefully scheduling this meeting after the UK and French elections will be helpful!

Our team can be available to meet between 8-10 AEST on July 9, 10, or 11 (which would be between 6-8pm ET on July 8, 9, or 10). Do let us know when would be best for a Teams call, and thank you helping to align everyone's schedules.

We'll likely still reach out to initiate a similar engagement to the one prior to the last federal election/referendum once a date is known, but in the meantime we're really interested in learning more about the AI topics we mentioned, and any relevant insights gained from other elections so far.

Kind regards,

s 47F

s 47F (she/her) | **Senior Project Officer**

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

T: s 47F



AEC

Australian Electoral Commission

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From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, June 17, 2024 11:01 AM

To: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E

Cc: s 47F

Subject: RE: Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Thank you s 47F – sorry for taking a few days to reply, but I wanted to first check in with my colleagues from Microsoft's Democracy Forward team based in the US who have participated in these engagements ahead of the last federal election.

The colleagues I'd like to join include s 47F whom AEC has had a number of previous engagements with, along with s 47F. Both are based in US Eastern Time (Washington DC), which means early morning is best for us to catch them in their evening. They are keen to support this engagement and would be well placed to address the questions below, but I note they are working on the UK, France and US elections at the moment (among others!) so availability is a little tricky.

Could you please propose some dates when a Teams call between 7-10am might be possible for your side and I can try to align schedules?

Thanks

s 47F



Microsoft

s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 11:19 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit s 47E; s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed meeting | AEC & Microsoft [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from s 47E [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi s 47F,

I hope you've been well. The Australian Electoral Commission has appreciated the productive engagement we've had with Microsoft in the past, and while the date for the next Australian federal election is yet to be determined by the government, we are keeping a close eye on developments in this 'year of elections' around the world, particularly advancements in generative AI technology.

With that in mind, we are very interested in meeting with representatives from Microsoft's AI team to learn more about the following:

- Any observations and lessons learned from recent elections around the globe and how these experiences are shaping your work on generative AI;
- How Microsoft is responding to electoral integrity risks when it comes to generative AI products like Copilot and Azure, with a particular focus on how we can ensure the Australian public has access to timely and accurate information about the electoral process;
- Confirming pathways for the Electoral Integrity Assurance Taskforce (EIAT) and the AEC to flag potential issues with you in relation to Australian federal electoral events and AI products like Copilot, and whether this would differ from our existing pathway;
- Additionally, we'd also be interested in learning more about any of Microsoft's approaches to both watermarking but also identifying watermarked/AI-generated content.

Any assistance you can provide in directing us to the relevant teams to meet with would be much appreciated.

Kind regards,

s 47F

s 47F (she/her) | Senior Project Officer
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

s 47F



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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 13 September 2024 12:27 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit; Matthew Haigh
Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Categories: s 47F

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi s 47F

I hope you have had a good week. I was touching base to follow up on a few details ahead of s 47F's visit on 23rd.

In particular, keen to have advice early next week on **who from the EIAT will be attending, as well as a desired agenda.**

Dave would like to have time to prepare to address the areas of most interest to the Taskforce. He will have some slides to present so let us know if connecting his computer to present will be possible or if he needs to prepare and send through in advance (less preferred as he has a lot of content he can dip into depending on where the discussion goes, if he can present he will keep that flexibility).

With regards to a time to meet s 47F in Singapore, I understand from s 47F that the conference is quite small and there will be lots of opportunities to catch up – Dave looks forward to updating him on the conversations he will have just had in Canberra, among other things.

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 11:20 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit; Matthew Haigh
Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you!

We are very pleased to be able to secure this engagement.

My colleagues are connected with Tania's team so I think we are in good shape there. Appreciate your help.

Have a lovely weekend

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

Mob: s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 11:09 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Defending Democracy Unit s 47E > Matthew Haigh s 47E

Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

I have just forwarded meeting invites to yourself and the colleagues listed below.

I'll touch base again with you next week to update you on:

- attendance of EIAT taskforce members at 23 September meeting
- availability of Michael for a pre-meeting in the week before 23 September
- Matt's availability to meet up with s 47F during the conference in Singapore

Also, I have forwarded your email to the relevant members of Tania Wilson's team so they can also arrange a meeting for 23 September, but please feel free to let me know if you haven't received a reply by next week and I would be happy to follow up from my end.

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and have a good weekend.

Cheers,

s 47F s | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

From: s 47F >

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:47 PM

To: EIAT s 47E

Cc: s 47F

Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Many thanks indeed, Tanya. We are pleased that this opportunity aligns and appreciate Michael hosting. The time and location proposed work well for us.

Please send through an invitation to me, along with my colleagues as below (s 47F and s 47F may not both attend, do please let us know if numbers on our side are a problem)

s 47F

Please let me know in due course which agencies will attend so I can brief s 47F. Should we also schedule some time the week before with me, Michael and your team to go over agenda and any specific areas of interest?

If it is at all possible to meet Tania's team either before or after that would be ideal from a scheduling perspective. I will also let my colleague s 47F know as she will join for that side meeting and helping with arrangements.

I believe that Matthew and s 47F will both be at the same conference in Singapore later in the week – if he would like to find time for a meeting or pullaside with s 47F there, we can certainly arrange that. Let me know?

Best

Kate



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: EIAT s 47E

Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 11:41 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Contacting you on behalf of Matt and s 47F - thanks for reaching out to arrange a meeting while s 47F is in town. EIAT representatives will appreciate a chance to meet, especially in the lead up to the US Presidential election. Also, I'd note s 47F was really insightful and a pleasure to talk to when we met online last month.

Matt will be overseas at a conference and therefore unable to make it to this meeting, however First Assistant Commissioner Michael Lynch is available from 3pm to 4pm on Monday 23 September.

Please let me know if this works for you and I would be happy to forward the calendar invite. We would be very happy to host you here at the AEC on Mort Street.

I'll forward this email chain to Tania Wilson's team to arrange a separate time to discuss the technical and security aspects of delivering the next federal election. I'll also flag for their consideration that s 47F would be available if needed.

Kind regards

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:39 PM

To: Matthew Haigh s47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: Request: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matthew

I am pleased to share that s 47F from Microsoft's Democracy Forward team will be visiting Canberra on **Monday 23 September**. You will recall that Dave presented to you and colleagues a few weeks ago.

s 47F has offered to provide an in-person briefing to the Electoral Integrity and Assurance Taskforce on what Microsoft has been seeing and doing globally in this year of elections. As the EIAT prepares for the next federal election, and in the weeks before the US Presidential Elections, his visit is very timely. I think this discussion would be very insightful for the EIAT.

Given s 47F is only in Canberra for one day, convening the Taskforce reps together will help us to reach all the key people. We would propose a roundtable format of 60-90 minutes, depending on what you think would be most useful for the Taskforce, to comprise a briefing from Dave then group discussion.

We would welcome your team's assistance with arranging this event if that is possible? We have an appropriate venue at our Canberra office on National Circuit if needed, but are also happy to come to you or another agency.

Separately to meeting EIAT, I'd propose we arrange time for s 47F to speak to you, Tania and other AEC executives about AEC's preparations for the election to focus more on technical and security aspects – we would bring s 47F into this discussion.

Please feel free to give me a call if that is simpler to talk this through. I do hope we can make the most out of this visit for you and your team.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 1:47 PM
To: EIAT
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Many thanks indeed, s 47F We are pleased that this opportunity aligns and appreciate Michael hosting. The time and location proposed work well for us.

Please send through an invitation to me, along with my colleagues as below (s 47F and s 47F may not both attend, do please let us know if numbers on our side are a problem)

s 47F

Please let me know in due course which agencies will attend so I can brief s 47F Should we also schedule some time the week before with me, Michael and your team to go over agenda and any specific areas of interest?

If it is at all possible to meet Tania's team either before or after that would be ideal from a scheduling perspective. I will also let my colleague s 47F know as she will join for that side meeting and helping with arrangements.

I believe that Matthew and s 47F will both be at the same conference in Singapore later in the week – if he would like to find time for a meeting or pullaside with s 47F there, we can certainly arrange that. Let me know?

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F
www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: EIAT
Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 11:41 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Contacting you on behalf of Matt and s 47F thanks for reaching out to arrange a meeting while s 47F is in town. EIAT representatives will appreciate a chance to meet, especially in the lead up to the US Presidential election. Also, I'd note s 47F was really insightful and a pleasure to talk to when we met online last month.

Matt will be overseas at a conference and therefore unable to make it to this meeting, however First Assistant Commissioner Michael Lynch is available from 3pm to 4pm on Monday 23 September.

Please let me know if this works for you and I would be happy to forward the calendar invite. We would be very happy to host you here at the AEC on Mort Street.

I'll forward this email chain to Tania Wilson's team to arrange a separate time to discuss the technical and security aspects of delivering the next federal election. I'll also flag for their consideration that s 47F would be available if needed.

Kind regards

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F



From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Matthew Haigh s 47E >
Cc: s 47F
Subject: Request: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward

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Hi Matthew

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We would welcome your team's assistance with arranging this event if that is possible? We have an appropriate venue at our Canberra office on National Circuit if needed, but are also happy to come to you or another agency.

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Please feel free to give me a call if that is simpler to talk this through. I do hope we can make the most out of this visit for you and your team.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 11:38 AM
To: s 47F s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Confirming there will be a Teams link available for use in the room.

Kind regards

s 47F (she/her) | **Executive Officer to the Acting Electoral Commissioner**
Executive Leadership Team
Australian Electoral Commission
T: s 47F



From: s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2025 11:28 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi s 47F and s 47F

Given the topics and audience, s 47F will prepare a few slides to present if we can ensure he can connect up to a teams link from the room.

Best

s 47F



s 47F
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:47 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks everyone. That change is noted with thanks.

s 47F and I will attend in person, with members of the AEC Account Team to also attend. I am confirming who this will be but will ensure we can cover off on the topics outlined below.

We will still come along at 11 for the meeting with the Cyber Branch, then can take s 47F for lunch to be back and checked in for the 1:30 start.

Looking forward to these discussions.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:34 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F and s 47F

Thanks for confirming these details, the calendar invite has now been updated to reflect the combined meeting.

The meeting time will be 1:30pm Canberra time.

Kind regards

s 47F (she/her) | **Executive Officer to the Acting Electoral Commissioner**

Executive Leadership Team

Australian Electoral Commission

T: s 47F



From: s 47F

Sent: Monday, 20 January 2025 4:23 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F

Subject: Suggested change to Microsoft/AEC meeting schedule on Wednesday, 22 January [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F and s 47F

Just wanted to close the loop on a suggested change to the schedule of Microsoft meetings here on Wednesday. If this has already been addressed, then please disregard.

Given it has been suggested that the meetings with the CIOD (Tania Wilson's area) and the EC (Jeff) be combined into one meeting for the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), I just wanted to make sure s 47F and s 47F had enough time to prepare/make adjustments and to confirm what time the combined meeting would take place.

If the meetings are to be combined, then the agenda would include existing items prepared for the CIO and the following items that the EC is interested in:

- Executive level briefing on Cyber threat landscape (MTAC/MSTIC insights)
- Synthetic media - including AI and the practical application of detecting / content provenance + credentialing / Microsoft's 'AI for good lab' initiative.
- Mis/disinformation and Microsoft's efforts in this space, especially media and digital literacy.
- Insights from elections in other geographies, for example major common themes / concerns

Potentially in addition to some, or all, of the following items suggested by s 47F (time permitting):

- support for electoral preparations from the technical/customer support perspective;
- content credentialing and pilot next steps;
- synthetic media and AI related harms, including advice on how to respond to incidents
- overview of the Democracy Forward visit program including training for political campaigns and journalists;
- update on implementation of the Tech Accord (as per correspondence this month)
- any other topics of interest

s 47F – if not already aware, please let us know if any issues with this change.

s 47F – let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

A purple banner with yellow and white text. On the left, it says 'Federal election work' in large yellow letters, followed by '100,000 paid jobs.' and 'Work before, on and after the day.' in white. In the center is a yellow circle with 'Register today' in purple. On the right is the AEC logo (a map of Australia) and the text 'AEC Australian Electoral Commission' and 'Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, Canberra' in white.

Federal election work
100,000 paid jobs.
Work before, on and after the day.

Register today

AEC
Australian Electoral Commission

Authorised by the Electoral
Commissioner, Canberra

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s 22

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 1:10 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit; s 47F
Subject: RE: Update: RSVPs and agenda items: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward at AEC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

This looks excellent, thank you for the update s 47F

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 12:33 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: Defending Democracy Unit ; s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Update: RSVPs and agenda items: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward at AEC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi again s 47F

By way of update for Monday, one of my colleagues has generously put together this table of attendees. We have also reached out to HA to see if there is anyone at working level who would like to attend. Comms and HA are now represented.

Microsoft	AEC	HA	ONI	DITRDCA	ASD	DISR
s 47F	Michael Lynch	s 47F – FAS, Counter Foreign Interference	s 47F	s 47F - AD, Information Integrity	s 47F - AD, Events, Coordination, Communications and Operations (ECCO).	s 47F Manager, Data and Digital Policy (virtual)
s 47F	s 47F		s 47F – Director, Open Source Foreign Interference	s 47F	s 47F	

			and Disinformation			
s 47F	s 47F		s 47F	s 47F	s 47F - Director, ECCO.	
			s 47F	s 47F (virtual)		

There have not been any further requests or suggestions for topics to discuss.

Hope this helps.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission
Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F
My hours are 8am to 4pm, Monday to Friday

[Redacted]

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 2:39 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit s 47E; Matthew Haigh <s 47E>; s 47F
s 47F
Subject: RE: RSVPs and agenda items: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward at AEC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Many thanks indeed, s 47F

This looks great. Thanks for sending the reminder to Taskforce members. In particular, it would be great to have Dept Comms and Dept Home Affairs attend if they are available.

I am aware of the ONI discussions with MTAC broadly, but not sure where they are up to so it is a good prompt to me to check in.

Many thanks

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)
Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs
s 47F
www.microsoft.com
s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, 16 September 2024 1:38 PM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F
Democracy Unit s 47E >; Matthew Haigh s 47E s 47F
s 47F
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RSVPs and agenda items: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward at AEC [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning s 47F

Thanks for checking in!

Attendance

To date, we have had responses confirming attendance from ASD (x1), ONI (x2) and DITRDCA (Infrastructure x 1). This is in addition to AEC attendance (x3-4). The rest have just been nil response rather than declined. I will send out a reminder today, along with an option for those that can't attend to submit questions/areas of interest which I can provide in a follow up email.

Presenting

In relation to presenting, it won't be an issue for us to grant Dave presenter permission to make life easy for him. I'll check in with the people who know how to manage this to make sure it's good to go for next Monday.

Agenda items

I haven't put together a formal agenda, but can flag that areas of interest will include the following:

- What has Microsoft observed or learned in relation to how electoral integrity* has been managed/maintained globally this year?
 - What has happened that you were expecting?
 - What has surprised you (both positive and negative)?
 - What could Australia learn from this?
- How has Microsoft adapted its approach to elections based on what it has learned so far this year?
- What are some useful (or terrible!) approaches to mitigating threats to electoral integrity that you have observed from other platforms and/or from other electoral management bodies?
- What are Microsoft's insights (if any) into the Sovereign Citizen movement?
- How big an impact do you assess AI has had on elections to date?
 - The existence of AI generated mis and disinformation, deepfakes etc does not necessarily correlate with impact

*We usually consider threats to electoral integrity in terms of cyber, mis/disinformation, physical threats and foreign interference, but of course there is plenty of overlap between these four areas.

Also, ONI reps queried whether your teams are aware of ONI's ongoing discussions to contract support from Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center (MSTIC) and Microsoft Threat Analysis Center (MTAC). They didn't flag any questions or issues but might appreciate an update on whether you are aware of this and how the Democracy Forward team interacts with the other two.

Lastly, Matt is copied in, but I will follow up to flag that s 47F will be at the conference in Singapore next week. I have no doubt he would be keen for a chat.

I'll check in with you again in the next day or two to update you on RSVPs and whether anyone has replied with a question or area of interest to cover.

Many thanks,

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s47F

s47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 12:27 PM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F; Defending Democracy Unit s 47E >; Matthew Haigh <s 47E >

Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Hi s 47F

I hope you have had a good week. I was touching base to follow up on a few details ahead of s 47F's visit on 23rd.

In particular, keen to have advice early next week on **who from the EIAT will be attending, as well as a desired agenda.**

s 47F would like to have time to prepare to address the areas of most interest to the Taskforce. He will have some slides to present so let us know if connecting his computer to present will be possible or if he needs to prepare and send through in advance (less preferred as he has a lot of content he can dip into depending on where the discussion goes, if he can present he will keep that flexibility).

With regards to a time to meet Matthew in Singapore, I understand from s 47F that the conference is quite small and there will be lots of opportunities to catch up – s 47F looks forward to updating him on the conversations he will have just had in Canberra, among other things.

Best

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)

Director | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 11:20 AM

To: s 47F

Cc: s 47F; Defending

Democracy Unit s 47E ; Matthew Haigh s 47E
Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thank you!

We are very pleased to be able to secure this engagement.

My colleagues are connected with s 47F team so I think we are in good shape there. Appreciate your help.

Have a lovely weekend

Best

s 47F



s 47F (she/her)
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F
www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Friday, 23 August 2024 11:09 AM
To: s 47F
Cc: s 47F Defending
Democracy Unit s 47E ; Matthew Haigh s 47E
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

I have just forwarded meeting invites to yourself and the colleagues listed below.

I'll touch base again with you next week to update you on:

- attendance of EIAT taskforce members at 23 September meeting
- availability of Michael for a pre-meeting in the week before 23 September
- Matt's availability to meet up with s 47F during the conference in Singapore

Also, I have forwarded your email to the relevant members of Tania Wilson's team so they can also arrange a meeting for 23 September, but please feel free to let me know if you haven't received a reply by next week and I would be happy to follow up from my end.

Thanks for getting back to me so quickly and have a good weekend.

Cheers,

s 47F | Assistant Director
Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch
Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

From: s 47F

Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2024 1:47 PM

To: EIAT s 47E

Cc: s 47F s 47F; s 47F

Subject: RE: RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Many thanks indeed, s 47F We are pleased that this opportunity aligns and appreciate Michael hosting. The time and location proposed work well for us.

Please send through an invitation to me, along with my colleagues as below (s 47F and s 47F may not both attend, do please let us know if numbers on our side are a problem)

s 47F

Please let me know in due course which agencies will attend so I can brief s 47F Should we also schedule some time the week before with me, Michael and your team to go over agenda and any specific areas of interest?

If it is at all possible to meet s 47F team either before or after that would be ideal from a scheduling perspective. I will also let my colleague s 47F know as she will join for that side meeting and helping with arrangements.

I believe that Matthew and s 47F will both be at the same conference in Singapore later in the week – if he would like to find time for a meeting or pullaside with s 47F there, we can certainly arrange that. Let me know?

Best

s 47F



s 47F

Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F

www.microsoft.com

s 47F

From: EIAT s 47E

Sent: Thursday, 22 August 2024 11:41 AM

To: s 47F s 47F

Cc: s 47F s 47F; s 47F s 47F s 47F

s 47F

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RSVP: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi s 47F

Contacting you on behalf of Matt and s 47F thanks for reaching out to arrange a meeting while s 47F is in town. EIAT representatives will appreciate a chance to meet, especially in the lead up to the US Presidential election. Also, I'd note s 47F was really insightful and a pleasure to talk to when we met online last month.

Matt will be overseas at a conference and therefore unable to make it to this meeting, however First Assistant Commissioner Michael Lynch is available from 3pm to 4pm on Monday 23 September.

Please let me know if this works for you and I would be happy to forward the calendar invite. We would be very happy to host you here at the AEC on Mort Street.

I'll forward this email chain to Tania Wilson's team to arrange a separate time to discuss the technical and security aspects of delivering the next federal election. I'll also flag for their consideration that s 47F would be available if needed.

Kind regards

s 47F | Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

Phone: s 47F | DDU Group Line: s 47E | Protected email: s 47F

From: s 47F
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2024 2:39 PM
To: Matthew Haigh s 47E
Cc: s 47F
Subject: Request: in person briefing from MSFT Democracy Forward

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Australian Federal Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Matthew

I am pleased to share that s 47F from Microsoft's Democracy Forward team will be visiting Canberra on **Monday 23 September**. You will recall that s 47F presented to you and colleagues a few weeks ago.

s 47F has offered to provide an in-person briefing to the Electoral Integrity and Assurance Taskforce on what Microsoft has been seeing and doing globally in this year of elections. As the EIAT prepares for the next federal election, and in the weeks before the US Presidential Elections, his visit is very timely. I think this discussion would be very insightful for the EIAT.

Given s 47F is only in Canberra for one day, convening the Taskforce reps together will help us to reach all the key people. We would propose a roundtable format of 60-90 minutes, depending on what you think would be most useful for the Taskforce, to comprise a briefing from s 47F then group discussion.

We would welcome your team's assistance with arranging this event if that is possible? We have an appropriate venue at our Canberra office on National Circuit if needed, but are also happy to come to you or another agency.

Separately to meeting EIAT, I'd propose we arrange time for s 47F to speak to you, Tania and other AEC executives about AEC's preparations for the election to focus more on technical and security aspects – we would bring s 47F into this discussion.

Please feel free to give me a call if that is simpler to talk this through. I do hope we can make the most out of this visit for you and your team.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best

Kate



s 47F (she/her)
Manager | Corporate External and Legal Affairs

s 47F
www.microsoft.com

s 47F

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