



Australian Government
Department of Defence

MC18-001684

Mr Trevor Benneworth

Dear Mr Benneworth

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2018 to the Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Marise Payne, regarding your request for permission to visit the Oakey Army Base to facilitate writing a story for your publication. Your correspondence has been passed to me for response.

Defence receives a large number of requests from media and general public for visits to military bases for a variety of purposes. As you would be aware, access to military bases is subject to operational requirements and security considerations. In addition to that, the organisation and conduct of such visits requires substantial personnel resources.

For these reasons, such visits are evaluated and approved or declined on a case by case basis. I note that you have been granted access to military bases on a number of previous occasions. Regrettably, on this occasion Defence will be unable to facilitate your request.

I acknowledge that your most recent request was not processed in a timely manner, mostly due to complicated nature of evaluating such requests outlined above, and apologise for the delay.

I congratulate you on the success of your publication and wish you all the best in your endeavours for the future.

Kind regards,


John Geering
First Assistant Secretary
Ministerial Executive Coordination and Communication

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16 July 2018