



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

FASS&SV/OUT/2015/AF22495198

**Mr Roger Clarke**

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(02) 6288 6916

Dear Mr Clarke

**Security Clearance Data**

Thank you for your letter dated 15 July 2015 to the Minister for Defence, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, regarding security clearance data. Your letter has been referred to me for response in my capacity as First Assistant Secretary Defence Security and Vetting Service, as the Australian Government Security Vetting Agency (AGSVA) falls within my purview.

Your letter notes the recent incidents in the United States of unauthorised access of sensitive staff information, including security clearance data, and states that the public has cause to be concerned that similar vulnerabilities may exist in relation to Australian security clearance data. You have asked a number of questions relating to the protection of security clearance data.

The AGSVA currently manages approximately 350 000 active security clearances across Government. AGSVA is bound by the Protective Security Policy Framework (PSPF), Defence Security Manual, Australian Privacy Principles and other applicable government security requirements. I'm sure you will understand that for security reasons, I am unable to comment on the specific measures in place to protect Defence systems.

If a breach in personal information was to occur, the AGSVA would report it to the Defence Privacy Officer, and would be managed consistent with Defence's Privacy Policy and the Australian Privacy Principles.

I trust this information is of use to you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Milne', written in a cursive style.

Elizabeth Milne

A/First Assistant Secretary Security and Vetting Service

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/4 August 2015