

From: [EIAT](#)
To: s47F [EIAT](#)
Cc: s47F [Matthew Haigh; Social Media](#)
Subject: RE: Request for removal of X posts as a matter of priority to address concerns over AEC staff personal health and safety - case numbers s47F and s47F [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]
Date: Saturday, 14 October 2023 4:56:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image007.png](#)
[image008.png](#)

Apologies s47F, we have triple checked and located the response within the volume of emails from the last two days.

We are disappointed in the outcome of those ones, however, thank you for following up.

Cheers

s47F

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

s47F

From: s47F
Sent: Saturday, October 14, 2023 4:03 PM
To: EIAT <EIAT@aec.gov.au>
Cc: s47F [Matthew Haigh <Matthew.Haigh@aec.gov.au>](#);
[Social Media <socialmedia@aec.gov.au>](#)
Subject: Re: Request for removal of X posts as a matter of priority to address concerns over AEC staff personal health and safety - case numbers s47F and s47F [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.

Dear s47F

And thank you s47F for your time also.

The internal team confirmed these were reviewed and responses were sent. Would it be possible to reconfirm if they were received?

Thank you.

Very best,

On Mon, Oct 9, 2023 at 12:00 PM EIAT <[EIAT@aec.gov.au](#)> wrote:

Hi s47F

We have submitted referrals #s47F and #s47F (see associated screen shots below) via the arranged process and are waiting for a response. We are bringing this to your attention given the risk to the personal health and safety of one of our staff members. The AEC is requesting that the posts referenced under these case numbers be removed as a matter of priority.

One of our staff members has been the subject of personal attacks on at least three occasions, including attempts to breach her personal privacy, based solely on footage taken of her while at work for the AEC. We are concerned that username s47F is escalating their intimidation and harassment of our staff member by repeatedly targeting them personally, in violation of X's targeted harassment policy. If this is allowed to continue it may have a negative effect on our ability to hire and maintain staff to facilitate the delivery of free and fair elections in Australia.

Username s47F s47F

s47F

Furthermore, username s47F

. The photographs in question have been reviewed and she has been deemed not to have breached any of the AEC requirements in relation to issue neutrality. This is therefore in violation of X's Civic Integrity Policy, specifically misleading information about how to participate, specifically:

- *misleading claims that cause confusion about the established laws, regulations, procedures, and methods of a civic process, or about the actions of officials or entities executing those civic processes*

The AEC takes the health, safety, and wellbeing of our staff very seriously. In the lead up to the Referendum this weekend, where it is anticipated harassment of public officials will increase, we are requesting action is taken in relation to these posts before this escalates any further.

Timeline of events

On 28 September 2023, our staff member was targeted in the below post. This post was not reported as it does not breach any of X's Terms of Service. We are concerned it may have led to the posts which have now been reported.

S47F

S47F

Case #S47F was referred on 6 October 2023 and included the following screen shots.
Username S47F searched for our employee's personal details and, rather than reaching out directly to the AEC via clear processes on our website to address a possible breach of issue neutrality, chose to post the results of their search publicly. We are requesting this post be removed.

s47F

Username **s47F** called into question the political neutrality of the AEC by referring to our staff member's badges as 'far left political badges' when they are badges in support of Australia's Indigenous and Torres Starit Islander Communities. Since this support does not infer support for either side of the Referendum it is therefore considered to be politically neutral. We are requesting this post be removed.

s47F

Case# **s47F** was referred on 9 October 2023 due to the reposting of some of the original content and the assertion that the AEC (presumably what was meant by 'Arc') had refused to respond. We are requesting this post be removed.

s47F

We haven't met yet, but I'm hoping to be able to catch up post-referendum!

Many thanks,

s47F Assistant Director

Defending Democracy Unit | Electoral Integrity and Media Branch

Australian Electoral Commission

s47F



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