



Public Safety    Sécurité publique  
Canada            Canada

Deputy Minister    Sous-ministre

Ottawa, Canada  
K1A 0P8

NOV 04 2022

**Miriam Burke**

Joint Clerk of the Committee  
131 Queen Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Miriam Burke,

In response to the motion adopted by the Special Joint Committee on the Declaration of Emergency (DEDC) on October 20, 2022 concerning redactions in documents shared with the Committee in June 2022, it is my pleasure to share with you Public Safety Canada's explanation for the redactions in our documents.

You may recall that the materials Public Safety Canada shared with the DEDC in June included the following groups of documents, covering January 23, 2022 to February 14, 2022:

- **Key points critical infrastructure:** Produced by the Government Operations Centre within Public Safety Canada, these consolidated information from multiple sources, and were shared broadly with federal departments to raise situational awareness.
- **Summaries of Federal/Provincial/Territorial meetings:** These meetings between Public Safety Canada and provincial and territorial governments are referenced in the *Report to the Houses of Parliament: Emergencies Act Consultations*, on February 16, 2022.
- **Requests for Assistance** – Requests for federal assistance and associated correspondence received between January 23, 2022 and February 14, 2022.

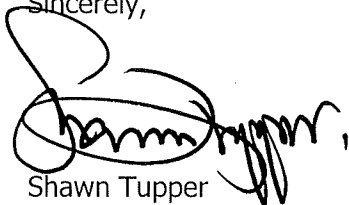
As noted in an explanatory table delivered to the DEDC with these documents, a few lines of text were redacted under the rationale "Operations of Government". This is the only category of redactions that were applied to the Public Safety Canada documents. This category encompasses content that could reveal the internal decision-making processes of government, the disclosure of which could interfere with the operations of government institutions. The rationale behind this exemption is that disclosure can, at times, have a chilling effect on the candidness of the advice, recommendations, consultations and deliberations given or received by the federal public service and can lead to a reluctance to deal frankly with difficult questions.

With respect to the limited redactions in the Public Safety Canada documents shared with the DEDC, this includes information discussed in a variety of forums and among various orders of government. It is important to bear in mind that, given the unprecedented challenges posed by the occupation in Ottawa and blockades at ports of entry, it is understood that a wide range of possible responses were explored, in an effort to come up with a safe and peaceful end to the public order emergency. It is also understood that many of the possible responses did not come to fruition for several possible reasons, such as that the situation was unfolding at a rapid pace, a more effective or appropriate approach was identified, new and more pressing challenges arose, or other reasons.

The content that has been redacted in the DEDC materials under the category "Operations of Government" protects the Government's ability to engage in full, frank and creative discussions on extremely challenging issues. Removing these redactions would threaten the open environment in which these kinds of discussions thrive, and jeopardize future efforts to solve equally demanding problems.

I trust this explanation will support the Committee to advance their study of the public order emergency that took place in Winter 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Tupper", with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Shawn Tupper

Deputy Minister  
Public Safety Canada