



OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL SECRETARY
TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

5 June 2023

Via email: foi+request-10287-93e3c0d5@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Cole,

Re: Application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*
Ref: FOI2023058

I refer to your email of 7 May 2023 to the FOI Coordinator of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), in which you make a request under the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) for:

- “1. list of the entire delegation travelling with the prime minister to london for the coronation in may 2023 excluding security personnel.*
- 2. list of the entire delegation travelling with the governor general to london for the coronation in may 2023 excluding security personnel.*
- 3. Name of hotel and number of rooms booked for delegations.*
- 4. number and type of vehicles hired for the delegation.”*

As the FOI Coordinator at PM&C advised, part 2, and tangentially parts 3 and 4 of your request were transferred to the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General, as they were more closely connected with the functions of the Office than with those of PM&C. This response relates ONLY to parts 2-4 of your request, PM&C will provide a separate response to the remainder of the request.

I am the authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act and this letter sets out my decision on your request for access.

Material taken into account

In making my decision, I have had regard to the following:

- the terms of your request;
- advice from Agency officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access;
- the relevant provisions of the FOI Act; and
- the Commonwealth’s guidelines on FOI.

Application of the FOI Act

The FOI Act has a limited application to the Official Secretary to the Governor-General. Section 6A provides that the Act does not apply to any request for access to a document of the Official Secretary unless the document relates to matters of an administrative nature. In *Kline v Official Secretary to the Governor-General* [2013] HCA 52 the High Court said:

‘the exception of a class of document which relates to "matters of an administrative nature" connotes documents which concern the management and administration of office resources.’

Further, the High Court held the phrase does not apply to documents that relate to the discharge of the Governor-General's 'substantive powers and functions'.

FOI Act

From the terms of your request, no documents or categories of documents (if they exist) relate to matters of an administrative nature, as that term has been interpreted by the High Court.

Decision

The document(s) that you have requested, to the extent they existed, would not relate to matters of an administrative nature. Accordingly I refuse your request under section 6A of this Act.

Information provided outside the Office's obligations under the FOI Act

While I have decided to refuse your request, I can provide the following information outside the Office's obligations under the FOI Act that may address your queries.

The Governor-General and Mrs Hurley were accompanied by four staff from Government House (Official Secretary, Director Communications, Senior Program Adviser and Travel Assistant) and an aide-de-camp from the Australian Defence Force. A single room for each of the five delegation members was booked in the Great Scotland Yard Hotel. Two vehicles were hired on an as-required basis. One mid-size coach was hired to transport the delegation and luggage from the airport to the hotel on 4 May, and return on 7 May; and one six-seater multi-purpose vehicle was hired on an as-required basis to support program commitments on 4 and 5 May.

To address your request specifically, I note that your FOI request relates to a request for information and I confirm that no documents of an administrative nature exist that relate to your request.

Review rights

You are entitled to seek review of this decision. Your rights are set out at Attachment A to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JBarnes'.**Jeff Barnes**

Deputy Official Secretary to the Governor-General

ATTACHMENT A — INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW

1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION

You can request internal review within 30 days of you receiving this decision. An internal review will be conducted by a different officer from the original decision-maker.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you could set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed. Applications for internal review can be made:

- via email to FOIcontactofficer@gg.gov.au
- by mail to The Official Secretary to the Governor-General, Government House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

If you choose to seek an internal review, you will afterward have a right to apply for Information Commissioner review (IC review) of the internal review decision.

OR

2. INFORMATION COMMISSIONER REVIEW OR COMPLAINT

You also have the right to seek IC review of this decision. For FOI applicants, an application for IC review must be made in writing within 60 days of the decision. For third parties who object to disclosure of their information, an application for IC review must be made in writing within 30 days of the decision.

If you are not satisfied with the way we have handled your FOI request, you can lodge a complaint with the OAIC. However, the OAIC suggests that complaints are made to the agency in the first instance.

While there is no particular form required to make a complaint to the OAIC, the complaint should be in writing and set out the reasons for why you are dissatisfied with the way your request was processed. It should also identify this office as the agency about which you are complaining.

You can make an IC review application or make an FOI complaint in one of the following ways:

- online at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/>
- via email to foidr@oaic.gov.au
- by mail to GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001, or
- by fax to 02 9284 9666.

More information about the Information Commissioner reviews and complaints is available at its website: www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process.