



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Reference: LEX 9615
File Reference: 23/28798

15 December 2023

The FOI People
Right to Know

By email: foi+request-10900-bd36d2b5@righttoknow.org.au

Dear the FOI People

RE: Freedom of Information Request – notice of intention to refuse request

I refer to your request received by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the department) on 22 November 2023, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

I am seeking any documents including but not limited to records, minutes, agendas, lists of attendees, correspondences, meeting invites, time, date and location of any meetings. Specifically, meetings held between organisations, individuals, foreign government representatives or any other representatives of groups acting in the interests of the occupied Palestinian territories and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and/or the ministers office. The timeframe for such meetings is between 7 October 2023 to the date of receipt of this FOI request.

I am writing to inform you that the department considers that this request, as currently drafted, does not provide sufficient information so as to enable departmental officers to identify the documents you seek (see section 15(2)(b) of the FOI Act).

However, you are welcome to revise the scope of your request in line with section 24AB(2)(e) of the FOI Act, so that it might be processed.

Sections of the FOI Act referred to in this notice are accessible at www.legislation.gov.au.

Notice of intended practical refusal

In accordance with section 24AB(2) of the FOI Act, I am providing you notice of my intention to refuse to grant access to a document in accordance with your request. I have decided that the scope of your request does not provide such information concerning the document as is reasonably necessary to enable a responsible officer of the department to identify it, and therefore a practical refusal reason exists within the meaning of section 24AA(1)(b) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity for you to narrow the scope of your request

Pursuant to section 24AB(2)(e) of the FOI Act, you have 14 days from the day you are given this notice to:

- a) withdraw your request,
- b) revise the scope of your request, or
- c) advise that do not wish to revise your request.

I invite you to contact me via foi@dfat.gov.au should you wish to narrow your request to enable the department to proceed with your request.

As is currently drafted, your request is very broad in nature and appears to capture every overseas Post as well as a significant number of Canberra line areas. To enable departmental officers to identify the documents to which you seek access, you may wish to specify whether you are seeking documents from Canberra, or from our overseas Posts and, if so, identify the relevant locations.

The reference to 'groups acting in the interests of the occupied Palestinian territories' is also too broad to enable the department to conduct searches for relevant documents. You may wish to consider specifying groups, organisations or individuals you are seeking to capture.

Please note that under section 24AB(7) of the FOI Act if you do take one of the above actions within 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Please also be aware that during this period of consultation, the statutory timeframe under section 15(5) of the FOI Act for the processing of your request is on hold (see section 24AB(8) of the FOI Act for details).

Yours sincerely

Brooke King

Brooke King
A/g Director
Freedom of Information Section