



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

13/8922

6 August 2013

Mr Malcolm Blaney

Sent by e-mail only: foi+request-121-b6bc46df@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Blaney

Freedom of Information Request no. 13/060

I refer to my letter to you of 1 August 2013 in relation to the above request. My attention has been drawn to a typographical error in that letter which I would like to correct in order to avoid any confusion regarding the decision.

2. The *reasons* for the decision as explained in my letter remain accurate. However, in setting out the *material* which I had taken into account in making the decision, I referred – among other matters – to:

advice from the relevant line area confirming that ASIO, not the Attorney-General's Department, is responsible for the provision of security assessments, and that the Attorney-General's Department does have responsibility for decisions in relation to security assessments relating to matters arising under the Migration Act.

3. The latter part of this statement inadvertently, and significantly, omitted the word 'not'. Accordingly, it does not accurately reflect the advice from the relevant line area. As suggested in the reasons for my decision, the reference to the material taken into account by me should have stated that the advice from the relevant line area confirmed that:

... the Attorney-General's Department does *not* have responsibility for decisions in relation to security assessments relating to matters arising under the Migration Act.

4. This is consistent with the information provided to you in relation to the Department's initial decision to refuse your request for access to the documents. You will recall the Department's letter to you of 1 July 2013 referred to:

the advice of the relevant line area that the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, not this Department, is the decision-maker on security assessments and that this Department does not play a role in that.

5. I apologise for any confusion or inconvenience arising from this error, and I hope that the above information clarifies the position.

6. I understand you have applied to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner for review of the decision, and have provided the Office with a copy of my letter of 1 August. I am copying this letter to that Office for its information.

Yours sincerely

Steven Marshall
Acting Corporate Counsel
Attorney-General's Department