



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

Reference: PMO/FOI/2015/031

Ms Rebecka Davidsson

Email: foi+request-1261-8f9769ac@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Davidsson

I refer to your email dated 30 September 2015 in which you made a request addressed to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) in the following terms:

I seek any correspondence between the former Prime Minister office of Tony Abbott and the government backbencher Ewen Jones about a free vote for same-sex marriage in Australia.

Authorised decision-maker

Under arrangements in place for FOI requests made to the Prime Minister, I am authorised to make FOI decisions on his behalf.

Decision

I have decided to refuse the request under section 24A (1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Reasons for decision

Section 24A(1) of the FOI Act provides that:

An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:

- (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document;
and
- (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:
 - (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or
 - (ii) does not exist.

Relevant searches have been undertaken for the documents requested. As a result, no documents relevant to your request were found in the possession of the Prime Minister or his office.

I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify the document relevant to your FOI request and I am satisfied that no document relevant to the request is in the possession of the Prime Minister or his office. I have therefore decided to refuse your FOI request under section 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Processing and access charges

I have decided not to impose processing charges in request of your three requests.

Review and complaint rights

In accordance with the requirements of the FOI Act, I enclose information setting out your rights of review and complaint.

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of the FOI request, please contact the Department on (02) 6271 5849 or foi@pmc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Drew Clarke', with a stylized flourish at the end.

DREW CLARKE

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