

28 July 2025

Daniel

By email: foi+request-13334-2834f642@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Daniel

STATEMENT OF REASONS – ABC FOI 202425-149

I refer to your email sent Friday 27 June 2025 seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act* (Cth) 1982 (the **FOI Act**) to:

... 1. Documents pertaining to the total cost of production for the Q+A television program from 2008 to 2025.

On Tuesday 22 July 2025, the ABC asked whether you would agree to revise your request to seek a document that already existed as the current scope would use a large amount of resources to create for the timeframe nominated.

On Thursday 24 July 2025, you confirmed by email that you agreed to receive the document that already existed instead of pursue the request sent on 27 June 2025.

As such, it was agreed to revise the scope of your request to seek only:

The total average cost of producing an episode of Q&A episode (either from an ABC studio or on location).

You further noted in your email that you were happy to receive this information as administration release and on that basis you withdraw your (revised) request upon receiving the full release document.

A decision on your request is due by Monday **28 July** 2025.

Authorisation

I am authorised by the Managing Director of the ABC to make decisions about FOI requests under s 23 of the FOI Act.

Decision

I have identified one document that answers the scope of your request - **Document 1**, as described in **Schedule 1**, attached.

Material taken into account

I have considered:

- the scope of your request
- the content of the document/s requested

- the FOI Act
- the guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under s 93A of the FOI Act (**the Guidelines**)

Locating and identifying documents

The search for documents included approaching the Finance team.

I am satisfied that the searches conducted were thorough and all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the documents relevant to your request.

Reasons for decision

In my view, it was reasonable to grant access to the information informally, as agreed administrative release.

Accordingly, **Document 1** was sent to you by email on Friday 25 July 2025 outside of FOI, as agreed.

As you did not reply to confirm you have withdrawn your request, I issue this statement of reasons to notify the ABC considers that your request of 27 June was withdrawn altogether, and that your revised request of 24 July was resolved informally as administrative release as you have now received the information in full.

The ABC has now closed its file agreed withdrawn.

Review rights

Your review rights are set out in **Annexure A**.

Yours sincerely



Ali Edwards
Head of Rights Management & FOI Decision Maker
foi.abc@abc.net.au

Schedule 1 – Document Schedule – FOI 2024-149

No.	Date	Description	Page/s	Access grant decision	Exemption section/s
01	July 2023	Document showing the average cost of producing Q&A	1	Full	-

Annexure A – Your Review Rights

If you are dissatisfied with this decision you can apply for Internal Review of the decision by the ABC, or Information Commissioner (IC) Review. You do not have to apply for Internal Review before seeking IC Review.

APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW BY THE ABC

You have the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents. If you apply for an internal review, a delegate who is not the person who made the initial decision will undertake a review and make a fresh decision.

You must apply in writing for an internal review of the decision **within 30 days** of receipt of this letter. No particular form is required, although it helps if you set out the reasons for review in your application and include the decision under review.

Application for a review of the original decision should be emailed to: foi.abc@abc.net.au

or posted to: **FOI team**
ABC Legal
GPO Box 9994
SYDNEY NSW 2001

APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (IC) REVIEW

Alternatively, you have the right to apply for a review by the Information Commissioner of the decision refusing to grant access to documents. Your application must:

- be in writing;
- be made **within 60 days** of receipt of this letter (the original decision or the internal review decision, or a deemed refusal decision);
- give details of how notices may be sent to you (eg. an email address); and
- include a copy of the decision for which a review sought.

Please refer to the OAIC website the IC review process page for further information including the online form for applying for IC review:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/your-freedom-of-information-rights/freedom-of-information-reviews>

Alternatively, an application for IC Review can be emailed to: FOIDR@oaic.gov.au or

posted to: Director of FOI Dispute Resolution
OAIC
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner has a discretion not to undertake a review.

COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

You may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the ABC in the performance of functions, or exercise of powers, under the FOI Act. The Information Commissioner may make inquiries for the purpose of determining whether or not to investigate a complaint.

Complaints can be made in writing to: OAIC - GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001