



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI/2015/217

Alan Cole
C/- Right to Know

By email: foi+request-1362-924fbe38@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Cole

I refer to your email of 10 November 2015 in which you made a request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

I would like to make the following request the list of accredited delegations to the G20 summit in Brisbane. That is for each country the list of ministers and support staff that accompanied each national leader and had accreditation to the summit.

The authorised decision-maker for your request is Amanda McIntyre, First Assistant Secretary, Financial Services Division.

Notice of practical refusal reason

I write to advise you that, subject to possible clarification which would narrow your request, Ms McIntyre considers that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Department from its other operations. This constitutes a 'practical refusal reason' under section 24AA of the FOI Act. On this basis, Ms McIntyre intends to refuse access to the documents you have requested.

However, before Ms McIntyre makes a final decision to refuse the request for a practical refusal reason, you have an opportunity to revise your request. This is called a 'request consultation process' as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act. You have 14 days to respond to this notice in one of the ways set out below.

Reasons for intention to refuse your request

Ms McIntyre advises that the size of your request, including as it does ministers and support staff, would result in the need to search for details of, and potentially consult with, thousands of people, each of whom were accredited for the summit. It is worth noting that some countries had hundreds of support staff. Extrapolating this for each of the countries attending means that it would be a very large exercise. Ms McIntyre considers the effort required to process your request would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.

In reaching this view, Ms McIntyre has had regard to the public interest in access to information held by the Department and considers that the public interest in access is outweighed by the competing public interest in the ability of the Department to undertake its ordinary functions without substantial impairment.

Ms McIntyre acknowledges that the processing of requests for access to documents is a legitimate part of each agency's functions, and that FOI requests may require reallocation of resources within an agency. However, Ms McIntyre considers that the Department could not reasonably divert resources to assist in processing your request.

Request consultation process

You now have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. Revising your request can mean narrowing the scope of the request to make it more manageable or explaining in more detail the specific documents you wish to access.

The decision maker's suggestions for how you might revise the request include limiting the scope of the request to ministers only (that is, removing reference to 'support staff'), or providing an indication of what your specific interest is so that we might assist you to further limit the scope and thus size of the request.

Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following, in writing:

- withdraw your request;
- make a revised request; or
- tell us that you do not wish to revise your request.

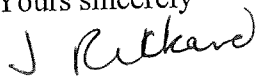
The consultation period runs for 14 days and will start on the day after you receive this notice. I am the relevant person for you to contact for the consultation process.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we would recommence processing it. Please note that the time taken to consult with you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the initial 30 day time limit for processing your request.

If you do not do one of the three things listed above during the consultation period or you do not consult with me during this period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your request, please contact the Department by email at foi@pmc.gov.au or by phone on 02 6271 5849.

Yours sincerely



J Rickard
FOI Adviser
Legal Policy Branch

13 November 2015