



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1601-F1360
File No: 15/54045
22 March 2016

Ramin Skibba
University of California, Santa Cruz
Science Communication Program
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz 95064, USA

Via email : foi+request-1448-c657c712@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Skibba,

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to your revised request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

*"a copy of the following documents and records involving the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Ministerial meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, USA from 30 September 2015 to 1 October 2015 be provided to me: programs, talk slides, and budgets. I request *only* documents related to the TPP meeting that have the keywords "intellectual property".*

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions, and have been appointed to be the decision-maker on your request in line with Departmental procedures.

This notice is to advise you that searches undertaken by the Department's Goods and Investment Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations has failed to identify any documents relevant to the scope of your request. Please note, our searches also included *documents related to the meeting with the keywords "company" or "corporation"* on the basis that you had requested that we do so.

I am therefore satisfied that the documents sought are either:

- (i) within the Department's possession but cannot be found; or
- (ii) do not exist, and

therefore in accordance with the provisions of section 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act, your request for access is refused.

Please find your rights of review outlined below.

Internal review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of my decision. Your request should be made in writing and sent within 30 days of receipt of this letter addressed to:

Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

Australian Information Commissioner

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review by the Australian Information Commissioner of my access refusal decision. You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner under section 70 on the Department's performance of its functions or the exercise of power under the FOI Act.

Your request for review or complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001
email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
Telephone: 1300 363 992
Fax: (02) 9284 9666

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning actions taken by an agency in the exercise of its powers or, more specifically, the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation of your complaint.

You may complain to the Ombudsman by calling or writing to:

Commonwealth Ombudsman
Level 5, Childers Square,
14 Childers Street
Canberra City ACT 2601
email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Telephone: 1300 362 072
Fax: (02) 6276 0123

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact your FOI case officer Felicia Nevins on (02) 6261 1419 or by email to foi@dfat.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Tegan Brink
Assistant Secretary
Goods and Investment Branch, Office of Trade Negotiations