



AFP
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

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Our ref: CRM 2016/395

/0 March 2016

Citizen

By email: foi+request-1590-211f90d1@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Citizen

Freedom of Information request re: MH17 operation costs

I refer to your email dated 24 February 2016 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) seeking the following:

"Itemised expenditure of all monies spent by the AFP on the MH-17 recovery mission."

Attached at Annexure A to this letter is my decision and statement of reasons for that decision. A "Schedule of Documents" identified as falling into the scope of your request is at Annexure B.

Information Publication Scheme (IPS)

As notified to you on 25 February 2016 and in accordance with section 11C of the Act, it has been decided to publish the documents in full in respect of your request. Publication of the documents and any relevant documents will be made on the AFP website at <http://www.afp.gov.au/about-the-afp/information-publication-scheme/routinely-requested-information.aspx> between 5 and 10 days after notification of this decision.

Yours sincerely,

Nathan Scudder
Coordinator
Freedom of Information
Chief Counsel Portfolio
Australian Federal Police

STATEMENT OF REASONS RELATING TO AN FOI REQUEST BY CITIZEN

I, Nathan Scudder, Coordinator, Freedom of Information, am an officer authorised under section 23 of the Act to make decisions in relation to the Australian Federal Police.

What follows is my decision and reasons for the decision in relation to your application.

BACKGROUND

On 24 February 2016, this office received your email in which you requested:

"Itemised expenditure of all monies spent by the AFP on the MH-17 recovery mission."

On 29 February 2016 you agreed to a summary of expenditure rather than documents for each individual transaction and clarified the scope of your request to the following:

"Any of the items purchased that were six figures and above listed individually...also, vehicles that were purchased out right..."

SEARCHES

In relation to this request, a search was undertaken by AFP Finance for the relevant information and produced a summary of expenditure.

DECISION

I have identified one document relevant to your request. A schedule of each document and details of my decision in relation to each document is at Annexure B.

I have decided that the documents itemised at Annexure B is released to you in its entirety.

EVIDENCE/MATERIAL ON WHICH MY FINDINGS WERE BASED

In reaching my decision, I have relied on the following documentary evidence:

- ❖ the scope of your application;
- ❖ the contents of the documents listed in the attached schedule;
- ❖ advice from AFP officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access;
- ❖ *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;

- ❖ Guidance material issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet; and
- ❖ Guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

**** YOU SHOULD READ THIS GENERAL ADVICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982.**

REVIEW AND COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are dissatisfied with a Freedom of Information decision made by the Australian Federal Police, you can apply for an internal or Information Commissioner (IC) Review. You do not have to apply for Internal Review before seeking an IC review.

You do not need to seek a review by either the AFP or the IC should you wish to complain about the AFP's actions in processing your request.

REVIEW RIGHTS under Part VI of the Act

Internal Review by the AFP

Section 53A of the Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review in writing to the Australian Federal Police (AFP) within 30 days of being notified of a decision. No particular form is required. It would assist the independent AFP decision-maker responsible for the internal review if you set out in the application, the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

Section 54B of the Act provides that the internal review submission must be made within 30 days. Applications for a review of the decision should be addressed to:

Freedom of Information
Australian Federal Police
GPO Box 401
Canberra ACT 2601

REVIEW RIGHTS under Part VII of the Act

Review by the Information Commissioner (IC)

Alternatively, Section 54L of the Act gives you the right to apply directly to the IC or following an internal review by the AFP. In making your application you will need to provide an address for notices to be sent (this can be an email address) and a copy of the AFP decision. It would also help if you set out the reasons for review in your application.

Section 54S of the Act provides for the timeframes for an IC review submission. For an *access refusal decision* covered by subsection 54L(2), the application must be made within 60 days. For an *access grant decision* covered by subsection 54M(2), the application must be made within 30 days.

Applications for a review of the decision should be addressed to:

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5128
Sydney NSW 2001

On 13 May 2014, as part of the 2014-15 Federal Budget, the Government announced that the OAIC would be abolished effective from 31 December 2014. The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014, which proposes the closure of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on 31 December 2014, was not considered by the Senate before the end of the 2014. The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. In the meantime, Information Commissioner reviews will continue to be handled by the OAIC.

For details on how this will affect the processing of IC review applications, visit www.oaic.gov.au/info-on-oaic-shut-down-and-foi-reviews-and-complaints.

The OAIC encourages parties to an IC review to resolve their dispute informally, and encourages agencies to consider possible compromises or alternative solutions to the dispute in this matter. The AFP would be pleased to assist you in this regard.

Further information about the process for IC review can be found in Part 10 of the Guidelines which are available on our website at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/guidelines.html>.

RIGHT TO COMPLAIN under Part VIIB of the Act

Section 70 of the Act provides that a person may complain to the IC about action taken by the Australian Federal Police in relation to your application.

A complaint to the IC may be made in writing and identify the agency against which the complaint is made.

The IC may be contacted on 1300 363 992. There is no particular form required to make a complaint, but the complaint should set out the grounds on which you consider the action should be investigated.

SCHEDULE OF DECISION – CRM 2016/395
RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS – CITIZEN, JOE

Document No	Folio No	Date	Author	Description	Exemption	Reason
1	1	29/2/16	Australian Federal Police (AFP)	MH17 Operation Costs	Released in full	

Authorised Decision Maker:

Nathan Scudder
Coordinator
Freedom of Information
Australian Federal Police



Date of Decision:

10 March 2016

MH 17 OPERATION COSTS TO 29 February 2016

Employee Salary Expenditure		12,374,497
Supplier Expenditure		8,176,110
Mobile Phone & Tablet Charges	565,850	
Computer	46,481	
Consultant / Contractor	28,322	
General	24,518	
Motor Vehicle	9,384	
Office	49,567	
Operational	235,208	
Minor Equipment	94,020	
Interpreter & Translators	70,948	
Consumables	63,198	
Other	7,042	
Property Items	71,862	
Security	2,156	
Staff	295,665	
Medical	252,843	
Uniforms	34,011	
Other	8,812	
Training	1,744	
Travel	6,844,890	
Airlines	1,422,303	
Accommodation	2,535,462	
MV Hire	947,545	
Other (Travel Allowances/Meals etc)	1,939,581	
Legal	461	

Cost Of Operation To Date 20,550,607

Note – No Motor Vehicles were purchased outright in relation to MH17 and the above MV hire costs only include costs associated with hiring vehicles overseas.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982
(COMMONWEALTH)

DOCUMENT HAS BEEN RELEASED
UNDER THE FOI ACT BY
THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE