

Our ref: IEF16/930

GPO Box 9839 Canberra ACT 2601 Australia Email: FOl@industry.gov.au ABN: 74 599 608 295

Ms Jensen Right-to-Know

By email: foi+request-1598-e89345df@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Jensen

# Freedom of Information Act 1982 – Notice of Decision

I refer to your request received by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) on 24 February 2016 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the following:

"...all correspondence relating to what was advised (e.g. emails, faxes, letters, any other record of correspondence) to the Australian Building Code Board regarding the nature of the International Fire Engineering Guidelines review".

#### Decision

I am an authorised decision maker in relation to this decision under section 23 of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that reasonable searches have been conducted to locate documents which fall within the scope of your request but they do not exist. I have therefore decided to refuse your request in accordance with section 24A of the FOI Act on the grounds that the documents you have requested do not exist.

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, your review rights are set out in Attachment A

Please do not hesitate to contact the FOI team on (02) 6102 8104 or by email at <a href="mailto:foi@industry.gov.au">foi@industry.gov.au</a> if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Savery General Manager

Australian Building Codes Board

March 201

REVIEW RIGHTS ATTACHMENT A

#### **Application for Internal Review**

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the option to apply for a departmental internal review of my decision. If you make an application for internal review it will be conducted by an officer of the department (other than me) appointed by the Secretary of the department to conduct a review and make a completely fresh decision on the merits of the case.

Application for a review of the decision must be made within 30 days after the day of receipt of this letter, or within 15 days of receipt of the documents to which this decision relates (whichever is the longer period). You do not have to pay any fees or processing charges for an internal review, except for charges relating to the provision of any additional relevant material located as a result of the review (for example photocopying). While a specific form is not required, it would assist the decision maker if your application specifies the grounds on which you consider the decision should be reviewed.

Application for a review of a decision should be addressed to:

FOI Coordinator Department of Industry, Innovation and Science GPO Box 9839 CANBERRA ACT 2601

or by e-mail to: FOI@industry.gov.au.

## Review by the Australian Information Commissioner

If any decision on internal review were not satisfactory to you, section 54L of the FOI Act currently gives you the right to apply for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner.

We note, however, that the *Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014* (the FOI Bill) is currently under consideration by the Australian Senate and, if the FOI Bill is passed by the Senate, the right to seek review by the Information Commissioner will cease. In the event that the FOI Bill is passed, any outstanding requests for review by the Information Commissioner will be transferred to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT). For further information please refer to the Information Commissioner's website: <a href="www.oaic.gov.au">www.oaic.gov.au</a>.

An application for review by the Information Commissioner may be made regardless of whether the decision was the subject of a departmental internal review. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made within 60 days of receipt of this notice. There is no fee for review by the Information Commissioner.

You must apply in writing and you can lodge your application in one of the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au

Post: GPO Box 2999, Canberra ACT 2601

Fax: +61 2 9284 9666

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

An application form is available on the website at <a href="www.oaic.gov.au">www.oaic.gov.au</a>. Your application should include a copy of this notice and your contact details. You should also set out why you are objecting to the decision.

### Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

The Information Commissioner has advised that from 1 November 2014 onwards, FOI applicants may complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman concerning action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Commonwealth Ombudsman will undertake a completely independent investigation of any complaint. You can make a complaint by telephone, in person, in writing, by fax, or using the online complaint form. Further information about making a complaint is available at: <a href="http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/pages/making-a-complaint/">http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/pages/making-a-complaint/</a>.