



In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 16/04/01255
File Number: ADF2016/16401

6 May 2016

CD

BY EMAIL: foi+request-1807-720d29fa@righttoknow.org.au

Dear CD

I refer to your email dated 10 April 2016 in which you request access to documents held by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the Department) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

Scope of Request

You have requested access to the following documents held by the Department:

'a current membership list of the "Citizenship Loss Board" as referenced by the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection on Friday April 8 2016.

A press conference transcript outlining the "Citizenship Loss Board" can be found here: <http://www.minister.border.gov.au/peterdutton/2016/Pages/press-conference-8-april.aspx>.'

This letter is to notify you of the decision on access to the documents subject to your request.

Charges

On 26 April 2016, the Department notified you of the estimated charges associated with processing this request in the amount of \$15.00. On 27 April 2016, you paid the charges in full.

Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions to in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate Departmental records.

Relevant material

In reaching my decision, I have considered the following:

- the terms of your request;
- the documents relevant to your request;
- the FOI Act; and
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under s 93A of the FOI Act.

Decision on access

The Department has identified one document that falls within the scope of your request. This document was in the possession of Department on 10 April 2016 when your FOI request was received.

My decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department is to release the information relevant to your request in full.

Section 22 of the FOI Act – irrelevant to request

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if giving access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request, it is possible for the Department to prepare an edited copy of the document, modified by deletions, ensuring that the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request.

As such the Department has prepared an edited copy of the document that falls within the scope of your request, deleting the irrelevant material.

Legislation

I have attached an extract of the relevant provisions of the FOI Act for your information at **ATTACHMENT A**.

Your Review Rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days. Applications for review should be sent to:

Freedom of Information Section
Department of Immigration and Border Protection
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

OR

By email to: foi@border.gov.au

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-reviews>.

Making a Complaint

You may complain to either the Commonwealth Ombudsman or the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.¹

The Ombudsman will consult with the Australian Information Commissioner before investigating a complaint about the handling of an FOI request.

Your enquiries to the Ombudsman can be directed to:

Phone 1300 362 072 (local call charge)

Email ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Ombudsman or the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Immigration and Border Protection as the relevant agency.

Contact

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@border.gov.au.



Hamish Hansford
Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Immigration and Border Protection

¹ On 13 May 2014, the Australian Government announced a decision to disband the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). However, the Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014, which proposes the closure of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC), has not yet been considered by the Senate. The OAIC therefore remains operational until further notice. Information on the OAIC public website advises that Information Commissioner reviews will continue to be handled by the OAIC and FOI complaints will be referred to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. Please contact the OAIC on the details above if you require further information.

ATTACHMENT A

Relevant Legislation

Section 22 - Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted

- (1) This section applies if:
- (a) an agency or Minister decides:
 - (i) to refuse to give access to an exempt document; or
 - (ii) that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access; and
 - (b) it is possible for the agency or Minister to prepare a copy (an **edited copy**) of the document, modified by deletions, ensuring that:
 - (i) access to the edited copy would be required to be given under section 11A (access to documents on request); and
 - (ii) the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request; and
 - (c) it is reasonably practicable for the agency or Minister to prepare the edited copy, having regard to:
 - (i) the nature and extent of the modification; and
 - (ii) the resources available to modify the document; and
 - (d) it is not apparent (from the request or from consultation with the applicant) that the applicant would decline access to the edited copy.

Access to edited copy

- (2) The agency or Minister must:
- (a) prepare the edited copy as mentioned in paragraph (1)(b); and
 - (b) give the applicant access to the edited copy.

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