



Our ref: IEF16/4244

GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Web: www.industry.gov.au
ABN: 74 599 608 295

Mr Patrick Conheady

By email: foi+request-2017-b2a5dab1@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Conheady,

Freedom of Information Act 1982 – Notice of Decision

I refer to your correspondence, received by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) on 26 June 2016, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the following:

“...any documents in the possession of the Department describing problems caused by journalists using the FOI process to research stories, and precisely how this makes the Secretary’s job more difficult.”

Decision

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that reasonable searches have been conducted to locate documents held by the department relevant to 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) 6276 1597 or (02) 6102 8104, or via e-mail at FOI@industry.gov.au, if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Tregurtha
General Counsel
Corporate Network

15 July 2016

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 gives you the right to apply for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner.

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 www.oaic.gov.au. 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 Australian Information Commissioner

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner 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 Australian Information Commissioner will make a completely independent investigation of your complaint. A complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner must be made in writing and can be lodged online using the Information Commissioner Complaint Application form on the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au.