



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1610-F1555
File No: 16/28849
21 November 2016

Vito Guzzardi
foi+request-2368-a21a1040@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Guzzardi

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to your e-mail of 20 October in which you seek access under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

an Itemised account for sending 20+ employees to France so as to learn how to save money, and to include but not limited to airfare costs, accommodation costs, food costs, beverage costs, seminar / course costs and any other costs billed to the Australian Taxpayer.

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.

I advise that a search of files undertaken by the relevant line areas has failed to identify any document relevant to the scope of your request. The document which you request does not exist. I note in this regard OAIC FOI Guideline 2.30, which states that 'The right of access applies to documents that exist at the time that FOI request was made. An applicant cannot insist that their request cover documents created after the request is received.'

I am therefore unable to meet your request in accordance with the provisions of section 24A(1)(b)(ii) as DFAT holds no documents relevant to your request.

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.

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, ada Cheung, on (02) 6261 3470 or by email to foi@dfat.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Helen Horsington
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section