



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

FOI/2016/198

#### ***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982***

**REQUEST BY:** Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

**DECISION BY:** Brendan MacDowell  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministerial and Parliamentary Support  
Branch

#### **FOI request**

In an email dated 15 November 2016 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ('the Department'), the applicant made a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), in the following terms:

*If possible, please treat this as an administrative or informal request.*

*Otherwise, please consider this a request under the FOI Act.*

*Can you please provide the topics list for briefs created in preparation for hearings of Senate 2016 – 2017 Supplementary Budget Estimates?*

#### **Authorised decision-maker**

I am authorised to make this decision in accordance with arrangements approved by the Department's Secretary under section 23 of the FOI Act.

#### **Searches for documents undertaken by the Department**

Having regard to my knowledge of the department's processes relating to Senate Estimates, no searches were required to be undertaken as no relevant documents exist in the Department.

#### **Decision**

I have decided to refuse the request under subparagraph 24A (1) (b) (ii) of the FOI Act. My reasons for decision are set out below.

## Reasons for decision

Subsection 24A (1) of the FOI Act provides that:

An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:

- (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document;  
and
- (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:
  - (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or
  - (ii) does not exist.

I am satisfied that no documents relevant to the request are in the possession of the Department. I have therefore decided to refuse the request under subparagraph 24A (1) (b) (ii) of the FOI Act.

## Processing and access charges

I have decided not to impose processing charges in respect of the applicant's request.

## Review rights

Information about the applicant's rights of review is attached.

## Complaint rights

The applicant may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about the Department's actions in relation to this decision. Making a complaint about the way the Department has handled an FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of the Department's decision. Further information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints>.



Brendan MacDowell  
Assistant Secretary  
Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch

12 December 2016