



Our Ref: LS4451 ~ file12/1152

Ms Margo Kingston
By email to foi+request-32-a8c83d8c@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Kingston

Re LS4451 ~ Your freedom of information request

I refer to previous correspondence in relation to your FOI request, in particular your email of 6 January 2013 12:22 AM in which you amended your request to seek now:

-- all documents mentioning or referring to the assertion by Mr Abbott in his 1998 letter that he had sought legal advice before seeking donations to the Trust, and all documents mentioning or referring to allegations later made publicly (in 2003& 2004, and again in 2007) that that statement was untrue.

I have two purposes in writing to you today. First, I am notifying you that I have determined for the purposes of section 15(6) of the FOI Act that the requirements of section 27 and 27A of the FOI Act make it appropriate to extend the period referred to in section 15(5)(b) of the FOI Act. This is because the AEC is consulting a person for the purposes of sections 27 and 27A of the FOI Act about the release of certain documents. You will note that section 15(6)(a) of the FOI Act provides that the period is extended by a further period of 30 days. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the third party consulted may have appeal rights that delay giving access to any documents falling within the scope of your request.

My second purpose is to clarify aspects of your amended application. Am I correct in processing your request on the basis that is not intended to seek:

- (a) copies of media reports; or
- (b) copies of documents relating to FOI requests by third parties?

Am I also correct in treating your amended request as being substantially the same as your request dated 28 April 2004 for:

'All material relating to or mentioning discrepancies between Mr Abbott's statement in an interview with me on September 5, 2003 and his letter to the AEC in October 1998 regarding the Australians for Honest Politics Trust.'

I note that your request of 28 April 2004 was treated as withdrawn when you failed to pay the charges notified in respect of that request. You will recall that at that time the charges had been assessed at \$837.00 and the AEC requested payment in full or a deposit of \$209.25. You made no payment. I will address the question of charges when making a final decision about your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Pirani', with a stylized, cursive script.

Paul Pirani
Chief Legal Officer

29 January 2013