



Mr James Smith

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Dear Mr Smith

**Freedom of Information Request No. 170402**  
**Notification of third party consultation**

I refer to your request of 4 April 2017 to the Department of the Environment and Energy (the **Department**) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**). Your request seeks access to:

- Item 1 All documents sent to all employees which explain what information about them was passed onto the ballot provider for each ballot.*
- Item 2 Any documents sent to the relevant decision maker(s) who approved the use of the data that was used in the ballots.*
- Item 3 Any documents which explain the rationale for obtaining breakdowns of votes*
- Item 4 Any documents which mention benefits to the department or to the bargaining process in obtaining a breakdown of votes.*
- Item 5 Any documents between the departmental bargaining team and the departmental Executive which discuss breakdowns of votes and suggest how that information should be used or otherwise taken into consideration by the department.*
- Item 6 Any documents from the APSC that mention what information about employees can or should be used in ballots.*

**Third party consultation**

I have identified one third party that might reasonably wish to make an exemption contention pursuant to section 27 of the FOI Act (business documents).

Pursuant to section 15(6)(b) of the FOI Act, I have decided that the statutory timeframe for processing this request should be extended by 30 days to allow for consultation to occur with the third party.

Yours sincerely

David Williams  
Assistant Secretary  
People Strategies Branch

4 May 2017