



Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

via email: foi+request-3776-a9a71fba@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Gothe-Snape

I refer to your request of 8 August 2017 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the following:

'the travel expenses, invoices, receipts, credit card statements and reimbursements for the most expensive trip taken by a Minister or Assistant Minister in your Department's portfolio area in 2016-17.'

Decision on access to documents

I am authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act and my decision is set out below.

I am satisfied that the department has taken all reasonable steps to identify and locate the documents, and holds no relevant documents within the scope of your request. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act on the ground that the requested documents do not exist.

The department does not arrange for travel undertaken by ministers in the Agriculture and Water Resources portfolio, it is not responsible for the costs associated with such travel, nor is it responsible for reporting on associated expenditure.

As you may be aware, the Department of Finance has published information on its website regarding parliamentary expenses for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016. This information is available at: <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/parliamentarians-reporting/parliamentarians-expenditure-P39/>.

From 3 April 2017, the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) was established as the independent body with functional responsibility for overseeing parliamentary work and travel related expenses. The reporting for the period of 1 January to 30 June 2017 is currently being compiled by the IPEA.

Review rights

If you wish to seek an internal review, you must apply to the department within **30 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. An application for internal review must be made in writing by post to the FOI Officer or email to foi@agriculture.gov.au.

Alternatively, you may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) to review my decision. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made in writing within **60 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. You can also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner if you have concerns about how the department handled your request. You can find information about requesting a review, making a complaint, and other information about FOI on the OAIC website www.oaic.gov.au or phone the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

Contact details

Should you wish to discuss any issues arising from this letter, please contact FOI Officer Stuart Plowman by email foi@agriculture.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Melissa Brown
Assistant Secretary
Parliamentary, Communication and Portfolio Business Branch
Corporate Strategy and Governance Division

6 September 2017