



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape
By email to: foi+request-3782-6a4eaf13@righttoknow.org.au

FOI Ref: 1708-1751
File No: 17/23046
8 September 2017

Dear Mr Gothe-Snape

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to your e-mail of 22 August 2017 in which you seek access under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* ('the FOI Act') to:

"Please provide an itemised summary of all trips booked with your travel provider for 2016-2017 in a spreadsheet format".

This revised your earlier request of 14 August 2017 for access to:

"Can you please provide 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."

As such, we interpret your email of 22 August as relating to trips taken by the Department's Ministers and Assistant Ministers.

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 relevant line areas has failed to identify any document relevant to the scope of your request. As advised in our email to you of 18 August 2017, you may view the latest expenditure reports for the period of 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 on the Department of Finance's website at:
<http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/parliamentarians-reporting>

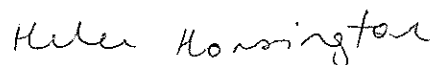
You may also wish to make enquiries with the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) which monitors and reports on parliamentarians' use of travel expenses, allowances and related expenses. You may contact IPEA's FOI section at: foi@ipea.gov.au.

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

Your review rights are set out in the **Attachment** for your reference.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact the FOI and Privacy Law Section by email to: foi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Helen Horsington".

Helen Horsington
Acting Corporate Counsel
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section

Attachment

Your review rights

Internal review

You may apply for internal review of the decision (s54 of the FOI Act). The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Where possible, please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by another officer within 30 days.

Any request for internal review should be directed via email to foi@dfat.gov.au or addressed to:

Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221
Australia

Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply within 60 days of the date of this letter to the Australian Information Commissioner to review my decision (s54L of the FOI Act). You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner about the Department's actions in relation to this decision (s70 of the FOI Act). Making such a complaint about the way the Department has handled your FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of my decision.

Further information on applying for an Australian Information Commissioner review is available at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>

Further information about how to make a complaint is available at:
<http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints>