



Australian Government
Department of Employment

Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

By email: foi+request-3780_ba01e43d@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Jackson Gothe-Snape

1. I refer to your correspondence, received by the Department of Employment (the Department) on 8 August 2017, in which you requested access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) to the following documents:

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

Notice of intention to refuse your FOI request

2. I have consulted with officers within the Finance Branch who are best placed to advise on whether the Department is likely to hold documents within the scope of your request.
3. Paragraph 15(2)(b) of the FOI Act provides that a request must provide such information concerning the document as is reasonably necessary to enable an agency to identify it. Your amended request does not provide enough information for the Department to identify the documents you are seeking.
4. The Department does not have responsibility for expenditure in relation to events attended by the Minister, and does not have visibility of all events attended by the Minister. We are unable to determine what the most expensive event attended by the Minister was in 2016-17 and, consequently, whether we hold any documents relevant to the scope of your request.
5. In view of this, I am writing to you under subsection 24AB(2) of the FOI Act to notify you of my intention to refuse your FOI request, on the basis that a practical refusal reason exists, i.e. the request does not satisfy the requirements of paragraph 15(2)(b) of the FOI Act.

Request Consultation Process (section 24AB)

6. Before making a decision to refuse your request on the above grounds, I am required under section 24 of the FOI Act to provide you with an opportunity to make submissions in support of your request as currently worded or to revise the scope of your request, so that the practical refusal reason will no longer exist.
7. You have 14 days from the day you receive this letter to contact me and do one of the following:
 - a. withdraw your request;
 - b. make a revised request; or
 - c. indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

8. You can contact me by writing to the following address:

Attention: James Ramsay
A/g Senior Government Lawyer
Information Law, Practice Management and Corporate Advising Branch
Loc: C12MT1-Legal
GPO Box 9880
Canberra ACT 2601

Alternatively, you can send an email to foi@employment.gov.au.

9. If you do not contact the Department within this period, your FOI request will be taken to have been withdrawn under subsection 24AB(7) of the FOI Act.

Yours sincerely



James Ramsay
A/g Senior Government Lawyer
Information Law Team
Corporate Legal
22 August 2017