



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

13/15035

9 October 2013

Mr Marcus Priest
Australian Financial Review
Email: foi+request-390-d45f47bd@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Priest

Freedom of Information Request no. FOI13/147

The purpose of this letter is to give you a decision about access to documents that you requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

Summary

I am an officer authorised under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

On 10 September 2013, you requested access to:

... *incoming government briefs – “red” and “blue” books – for the Liberal and Labor parties*

I have identified that the Attorney-General's Department at the time of your request had no documents that fell within the scope of your request.

I have accordingly decided to refuse your request for access to the documents. More information, including my reasons for my decision, is set out below.

Decision and reasons for decision

An incoming government brief advises an incoming government on potential strategic directions for a portfolio over subsequent years. An incoming government brief is provided to the Minister responsible for the administration of a particular portfolio.

With regard to the 'incoming government brief... for the Liberal' party, I have found that the incoming government brief did not exist (section 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act) as no incoming government brief had been completed at the time of your request.

With regard to the 'incoming government brief... for the... Labor' party, I have found that the document does not exist.

Material taken into account

I have taken the following material into account in making my decision:

- the FOI Act; and
- the guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act.

Your review rights

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for internal review or Information Commissioner review of the decision. We encourage you to seek internal review as a first step as it may provide a more rapid resolution of your concerns.

Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply in writing to the Attorney-General's Department for an internal review of my decision. The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this letter, and be lodged in one of the following ways:

online: foi@ag.gov.au
post: FOI and Privacy Section
Office of Corporate Counsel,
Attorney-General's Department,
3-5 National Circuit
Barton, ACT 2600

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.

Information Commissioner review

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Australian Information Commissioner to review my decision. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made in writing within 60 days of the date of this letter, and be lodged in one of the following ways:

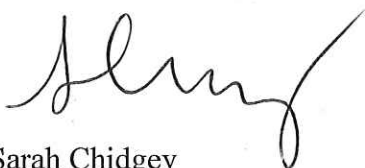
online: <https://forms.business.gov.au/aba/oaic/foi-review/>
email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
post: GPO Box 2999, Canberra ACT 2601
in person: Level 3, 175 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW

More information about Information Commissioner review is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner website. Go to <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-reviews>.

Questions about this decision

If you wish to discuss this decision, please contact the Department by email at foi@ag.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Chidgey

Assistant Secretary

Attorney-General's Department