



Australian Government
Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Decision Record

Request Details

FOI Request: FA 13/10/00448

File Number: ADF2013/28495

Scope of Request

"Detailed Incident Report 1-A4Q9GC from the Department's Compliance, Case Management, Detention and Settlement Portal."

Documents in scope

1. Detailed Incident Report – 1-A4Q9GC – containing 6 folios.

Decision

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

My decision is to exempt in part the documents which fall within the scope of your request. A statement of reasons for my decision is below.

You should read the documents in conjunction with the Schedule of Documents and the statement of reasons.

Information considered

In reaching my decision I have considered the following:

- The *Freedom of Information Act 1982*;
- the *FOI guidelines* issued by the Australian Information Commissioner;
- Departmental files and/or documents (identified above); and
- consultation with relevant business area.

Reasons for decision

I have considered the documents within the scope of your request and applied exemptions in part or in full to documents as detailed in the Schedule of Documents. You should read the schedule in conjunction with the exemptions below.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 (FOI Act)

SECT 22 Deletion of exempt matter or irrelevant material

(1) *This section applies if:*

- (a) *an agency or Minister decides:*
 - (i) *to refuse to give access to an exempt document; or*
 - (ii) *that to give access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request for access; and*
- (b) *it is possible for the agency or Minister to prepare a copy (an **edited copy**) of the*

people our business

document, modified by deletions, ensuring that:

- (i) access to the edited copy would be required to be given under section 11A (access to documents on request); and*
- (ii) the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request; and*
- (c) it is reasonably practicable for the agency or Minister to prepare the edited copy, having regard to:*
 - (i) the nature and extent of the modification; and*
 - (ii) the resources available to modify the document; and*
- (d) it is not apparent (from the request or from consultation with the applicant) that the applicant would decline access to the edited copy.*

The information deleted under section 22(1) of the FOI Act is considered exempt or irrelevant to your request. While the FOI Act extends a legally enforceable right of any person to seek access to documents held by an agency, section 22(1) allows an authorised FOI officer to remove information that is exempt material or material that is reasonably regarded as irrelevant to the request.

In accordance with section 22 I have prepared an edited copy of the documents for release.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982 - Section 47F
Public interest conditional exemptions—personal privacy

- (1) A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).*
- (2) In determining whether the disclosure of the document would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information, an agency or Minister must have regard to the following matters:*
 - (a) the extent to which the information is well known;*
 - (b) whether the person to whom the information relates is known to be (or to have been) associated with the matters dealt with in the document;*
 - (c) the availability of the information from publicly accessible sources;*
 - (d) any other matters that the agency or Minister considers relevant.*
- (3) Subject to subsection (5), subsection (1) does not have effect in relation to a request by a person for access to a document by reason only of the inclusion in the document of matter relating to that person.*

Access given to qualified person instead

- (4) Subsection (5) applies if:*
 - (a) a request is made to an agency or Minister for access to a document of the agency, or an official document of the Minister, that contains information concerning the applicant, being information that was provided by a qualified person acting in his or her capacity as a qualified person; and*
 - (b) it appears to the principal officer of the agency or to the Minister (as the case may be) that the disclosure of the information to the applicant might be detrimental to the applicant's physical or mental health, or well-being.*

- (5) The principal officer or Minister may, if access to the document would otherwise be given to the applicant, direct that access to the document, so far as it contains that information, is not to be given to the applicant but is to be given instead to a qualified person who:
- (a) carries on the same occupation, of a kind mentioned in the definition of *qualified person* in subsection (7), as the first-mentioned qualified person; and
 - (b) is to be nominated by the applicant.
- (6) The powers and functions of the principal officer of an agency under this section may be exercised by an officer of the agency acting within his or her scope of authority in accordance with arrangements referred to in section 23.
- (7) In this section:
- qualified person* means a person who carries on, and is entitled to carry on, an occupation that involves the provision of care for the physical or mental health of people or for their well-being, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, includes any of the following:
- (a) a medical practitioner;
 - (b) a psychiatrist;
 - (c) a psychologist;
 - (d) a counsellor;
 - (e) a social worker.

Note: Access must generally be given to a conditionally exempt document unless it would be contrary to the public interest (see section 11A).

The documents that are exempt, either in full or in part, under section 47F of the FOI Act contain personal information.

Having formed the view that the documents are of a kind to which section 47F does apply, I am required to consider whether disclosure of the documents would be unreasonable. I took the following information into consideration:

- The information is not your personal information. This weighs against the release being reasonable.
- Every person has the right to expect that their personal information will be securely maintained by the department. This weighs against the release being reasonable.
- The information does not appear to be in the public forum. This weighs against the release being reasonable.

On balance I believe it would be unreasonable to release these documents in their complete format.

Having formed the view that the documents are of a kind to which section 47F(1) does apply, I am required to consider whether disclosure of the documents would be contrary to the public interest.

I have considered:

Arguments in favour of the disclosure of the documents include:

- a person having a general right of access to any material about them held by the government;
- there is a general public interest in making information held by the Government accessible to the public; and
- the need for openness and accountability of the department's operations.

Arguments that against disclosure of the documents include:

- it is a core Government concern to maintain the integrity of the information it holds and in the maintaining of an individual's privacy
- prejudice the fair treatment of individuals
- prejudice security, law enforcement, public health or safety

The information contained within the identified documents wholly relates to a person other than you. The department is obliged to take action to prevent the unreasonable disclosure of an individual's personal information and I have given this the greatest weight.

I consider that disclosure of this information would be contrary to the public interest and it is therefore exempt from disclosure under section 47F of the FOI Act.



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Department of Immigration and Citizenship

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS TO DECISION RECORD

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1. Detailed Incident Report – 1-A4Q9GC – containing 6 folios.

Folio	Description	Decision	Legislation
1	Information contained within the identified documents wholly relates to a person other than you. AND; Information deleted under section 22(1) of the FOI Act is considered exempt or irrelevant to your request	Exempt in Part	s.47F(1) AND s.22(1)(a)(ii)
2-3	Information deleted under section 22(1) of the FOI Act is considered exempt or irrelevant to your request	Exempt in Part	s.22(1)(a)(ii)
4-6	Information contained within the identified documents wholly relates to a person other than you. AND; Information deleted under section 22(1) of the FOI Act is considered exempt or irrelevant to your request	Exempt in Part	s.47F(1) AND s.22(1)(a)(ii)