



8 May 2018

Dr Scott

By email: foi+request-4402-9d7e0088@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Dr Scott

FOI REQUEST – REFERENCE NUMBER 2018-010

I refer to your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in your email of 1 March 2018. Specifically, you have sought access to the following documents:

“Copies of any correspondence (electronic or hard copy) between the ABC and Television International Enterprises Archives (TIEA) between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2018, including correspondence with Philip Morris Executive Director of TIEA, relating or referring to a request from the TIEA for information about, or access to, ABC records or information regarding any/all missing episodes of Doctor Who.

For the purposes of this request, ‘missing’ means missing from the published list of episodes (i.e. 97 missing episodes as listed on the below Wikipedia page)
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_Who_missing_episodes”

I am authorised by the Managing Director under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests made under that Act, and I apologise for the delay in doing so. Due to the timeframe applied to the request, and the fact that several key ABC employees who may have had correspondence with the company and person identified in your request are no longer with the ABC, a retrieval of archived correspondence and secondary search process was required.

Following is my decision in relation to your request.

Locating and identifying documents

Reasonable steps were taken to identify and locate all relevant documents. The search for these documents involved contacting the following relevant people, who in turn consulted with relevant managers and staff within their respective teams:

- Head Audience & Consumer Affairs
- Head Distribution, Entertainment & Specialist

It was requested that searches be conducted of all hard and soft copy records for documents which fall within the scope of your request. As a result of those searches, no documents were identified.

A secondary search was then undertaken in order to identify any in-scope documents that may have been present in the archived correspondence of several relevant former key members of staff. As a result of those searches, no documents were identified.

Decision

Under s24A of the FOI Act, the ABC may refuse a request for access if all reasonable steps have been taken to find a document and the ABC is satisfied that the document does not exist. In the present case, I consider that all reasonable steps have been taken to locate relevant documents. I am further satisfied that the requested documents do not exist and therefore access to them is refused pursuant to s24A of the FOI Act.

If you are dissatisfied with the ABC's decision in the matter 2018-010 you can apply for Internal or Information Commissioner (IC) Review. You do not have to apply for Internal Review before seeking IC Review. Information about your review rights is attached.

Yours sincerely



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