



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**

FOI18/073

2 July 2018

By email: [foi+request-4609-f7a47818@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-4609-f7a47818@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Kekre

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

**Summary**

I, Stephen Bouwhuis, am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests made to the Attorney-General's Department (the department).

On 28 May 2018 you made an FOI request for the following –

*'Copies of all briefings, communications, forms, reports, documents or notes mentioning or regarding the not-for-profit media organization WikiLeaks or its Australian staff, including but not limited to Julian Assange.'*

On 4 June 2018 you were issued with a Notice of Practical Refusal and on 8 June 2018 you made a revised request for documents as follow:

*'all briefings, communications, forms, reports, documents or media by created or received by Attorney-General's Department personnel with government officials of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Sweden and Ecuador, mentioning or regarding the not-for-profit media organization Wikileaks and its Australian staff, including but not limited to Julian Assange, and excluding duplicates of documents and drafts. I request documents created between May 2012 - June 2018.'*

*'Additionally, with the exception of Wikileaks staff and senior department officers, I would be happy to exclude the personal information of any individuals contained in the documents from the scope of my request.'*

On 12 June 2018 you were sent an email advising that your revised request as it stood was still too broad and required clarification.

We have not received any response from you and the consultation period of 14 days, as notified to you in the Notice of Practical Refusal of 8 June 2018, has expired.

## **My decision**

The terms of your revised request are broad and you have not addressed any of the specific points raised in the request to you to narrow further and to clarify, as sent to you by the department on 12 June 2018. I consider that, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the department has taken reasonable steps to assist you to revise your request so that a practical refusal reason no longer exists. In the end, you have not responded to the department or provided sufficient detail about the documents you are seeking to enable the department to conduct searches that would not be an unreasonable burden on departmental resources.

Accordingly, I consider your request to have been withdrawn under subsection 24AB(6) on the grounds that you have not responded by withdrawing your request, making a revised request or indicating that you do not wish to further revise your request.

Please note it is open to you to make a fresh request should you wish to do so.

## **Material taken into account**

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

- your FOI request;
- the FOI Act;
- 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:

email:      [foi@ag.gov.au](mailto:foi@ag.gov.au)  
post:        Freedom of Information and Parliamentary Section  
              Strategy and Governance Division  
              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](mailto:enquiries@oaic.gov.au)

post: GPO Box 5218, SYDNEY NSW 2001

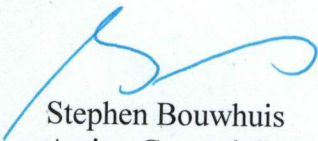
in person: Level 3, 175 Pitt Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000

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 FOI Unit by telephone on (02) 6141 6666 or by email [foi@ag.gov.au](mailto:foi@ag.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Bouwhuis  
Acting General Counsel (Constitutional)

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.



Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.