



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade**

FOI Ref: 1312-F719

File No: 13/21077

20 December 2013

Mr Peter Timmins  
foi+request-486-2a043e05@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Timmins

**Re: Freedom of Information Request**

I refer to your current request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

*A copy of the document or documents that set out relevant considerations, and the instruction to the Australian Mission in New York or the Australian Embassy Washington, to indicate support for the Joint Statement on the Promotion and Protection of Civil Society issued by the White House on 23 September 2013.*

Preliminary searches for documents relevant to your request have been completed. The next step is to consider the application of section 29 of the FOI Act, which concerns the charge, if any, for processing your request.

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions on the charge for processing your request. I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge. Our preliminary assessment of the amount of that charge is **\$199.71**. Please note that at this stage in the FOI process, no decision has been made as to whether the information you seek will be released or exempt under the provisions of the FOI Act. My decision relates only to the processing charges.

Now that we have given you written notice of our preliminary assessment of the amount of the charge for processing your request, section 29 provides that you have 30 days within which to:

- agree to pay the charge;
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed; or
- withdraw your request.

You may also elect to narrow the scope of your request as a means to reduce the charge which would apply. The narrowed request would be handled as a new FOI request for the purposes of the statutory timelines for access to documents.

Should you agree to pay the charge, the *Freedom of Information (Fees & Charges) Regulations* requires that a deposit of 25% of the total charge be paid where the preliminary assessment of the charge exceeds \$100. I have calculated the required deposit for your request to be **\$49.93**. Please make your cheque or money order payable to 'The National Cashier – DFAT'. An authorisation form to arrange payment of the application fee by credit card is enclosed if you prefer to pay the fee by Visa or Mastercard.

Should you contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed, you will now need to apply for the Department to waive or reduce the charge. A departmental decision-maker will then make a decision on whether the charge should be imposed, and in what amount. The decision will take account of any contentions you may make. The Department may waive or reduce the charge for any reason, including where:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause you financial hardship, or
- the giving of access to documents relevant to your request is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

Please note that the onus to demonstrate that charges should be reduced or waived on these or other grounds is on you as the applicant.

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that the 30 day period within which we should process your request is suspended until we receive your payment of the deposit for the charge for processing your request, or we decide not to impose a charge. Should you withdraw your request at this stage, no charge will be imposed.

If we do not receive your response to this letter within 30 days of its receipt, I will consider that you no longer wish to continue with your request, and I will deem it withdrawn. Should you have any queries, or would like to discuss revising the terms of your request, please contact me on (02) 6261 3470 or via email to [foi@dfat.gov.au](mailto:foi@dfat.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Ada Cheung  
a/g Director  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section



## Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

### Credit Card Payment for Freedom of Information (FOI) Charges

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Payment of Charges: (Deposit / In Full)**

For a sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as detailed in the FOI Estimate of Charges letter dated  
20 December 2013 (FOI ref: 1312-F719)

I authorise the National Cashier of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
to debit my

VISA     MASTER CARD

-  -  -  Expiry: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name appearing on card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_