



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1312-F719

File No: 13/21077

Date: 18 February 2014

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* (FOI Act) to obtain documents relating to Australia's support for the Joint Statement on the Promotion and Protection of Civil Society issued by the White House on 23 September 2013.

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make access decisions, and have been appointed to be the decision-maker on your request as required by departmental procedures. I have been provided with the documents identified in searches within the Department as relevant to your request.

Decision

After careful consideration of the material and the terms and context of your request, I have identified 4 documents as being relevant to your request. I have decided to release all documents in full (with irrelevant material deleted).

Reasons for my decision, including any material findings of fact

Some material has been deleted under section 22(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act, which allows material that is either irrelevant to the request or exempt from release to be deleted, to enable the remaining material in the document to be released. Some of the deleted material refers to matters which are reasonably irrelevant to your request, as they are not about the joint statement. Cable metadata, such as automatically generated distribution list has also been deleted as reasonably irrelevant to your request.

I have also decided to exempt the personal information (names and contact details) of junior employees of the Department. Where I have assessed that there is no need for contact with that particular public servant in the future, disclosure of that person's name may be unreasonable.

Notwithstanding my decision to release the documents in full, your review rights are as follows.

Internal review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of my access decision. Your request in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter should be directed to:

Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
BARTON ACT 0221

Australian Information Commissioner

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review by the Australian Information Commissioner of my access decision. You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner under section 70 on the Department's performance of its functions or the exercise of power under the FOI Act.

Your request for review or complaint should be directed to:

GPO Box 2999
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 1300 363 992
Fax: (02) 9284 9666
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning actions taken by an agency in the exercise of its powers or, more specifically, the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation of your complaint.

You may complain to the Ombudsman by calling or writing to:

Commonwealth Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 1300 362 072
Fax: (02) 6249 7829

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact your FOI case officer Lindy Judge on (02) 62611701.

Yours sincerely



Noel Campbell
Assistant Secretary
International Organisations Branch

Judge, Lindy

From: Peter Timmins <foi+request-486-2a043e05@righttoknow.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 11 December 2013 5:17 PM
To: FOI
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Australian support for Civil Society

Categories: Blue Category

Dear Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, This is an application under the Freedom of Information Act for 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. The Statement is published at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/09/23/joint-statement-promotion-and-protection-civil-society>

Yours faithfully,

Peter Timmins.

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:
foi+request-486-2a043e05@righttoknow.org.au

Is foi@dfat.gov.au the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:
<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/contact>

Write your response as plain text. Only send PDF documents as a last resort. Government guidelines make it clear that PDF is not an acceptable format for you to use in the delivery of government information.
<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers#pdf>

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If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

FOI request – Timmins F719

All documents identified in search

FOI Doc	Commences at page	Number of pages	Date	Description	Access decision	Exemptions claimed by decision maker	Comments
1.	1	4	11/09/2013	Cable Wh66150H	Release, with irrelevant information deleted under s 22 1(a)(ii)		
2.	6	3	20/09/2013	E-mails	Release, with irrelevant information deleted under s 22 1(a)(ii)		
3.	9	3	20/09/2013	E-mails	Release, with irrelevant information deleted under s 22 1(a)(ii)		
4.	12	1	20/09/2013	E-mails	Release, with irrelevant information deleted under s 22 1(a)(ii)		