



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI/2019/283

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

REQUEST BY: HW

DECISION BY: Stephen Heskett
Assistant Secretary
Shared Services Branch

HW

By email: foi+request-5491-70caalaa@righttoknow.org.au

Dear HW

I refer to your email, dated 1 October 2019, in which you made a request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

Under the FOI Act, I request copies of invoices given to the Department by AGS in respect of services rendered by AGS related to the public interest disclosure the subject of the above article.

I note that, in accordance with a decision made by Mr Stephen Heskett (Assistant Secretary of DPMC's Shared Services Branch) as available here: <https://www.righttoknow.org.au/request/5491/response/15500/attach/5/2019%20150%20Decision%20signed.pdf> there are only nine invoices/documents relevant to my request. Further, I note that those nine invoices/documents have already been searched for, located and retrieved by DPMC and that I have already paid for the costs associated with DPMC's searching for, location and retrieval of those nine invoices/documents.

In processing my request, I consent to DPMC redacting all information contained in the relevant documents except for the dollar figure/amount at the end of each of the nine invoices/documents - those nine amounts collectively being the total amount of money billed/invoiced to the Department by AGS in respect of services provided to the Department related to the Department's investigation of the public interest disclosure the subject of the above article. If processed in accordance with the FOI Act and Public Service Act, the Department will release the relevant nine invoices/documents with all information blacked out, save for the total dollar amounts listed/billed at the end of each of the nine documents/invoices.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make this decision in accordance with arrangements approved by the Department's Secretary under section 23 of the FOI Act.

Searches for relevant documents

The Department has undertaken searches of its relevant electronic and paper records and identified nine documents containing the information you have requested (the **requested documents**).

Decision

I have decided to grant access, in full, to the requested documents. The requested documents are **attached**.

In making this decision, I have had regard to the following material:

- the FOI request;
- the documents relevant to the FOI request;
- the FOI Act;
- the Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (**FOI Guidelines**).

Charges

I have decided not to impose charges in relation to the processing of your request.

Deletion of exempt or irrelevant information (section 22 of the FOI Act)

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that exempt or irrelevant information may be deleted from a copy of a document, and access granted to such an amended copy where it is reasonably practicable to do so, unless it is apparent that the applicant would not wish to have access to such a copy.

Parts of the requested documents contain irrelevant information as it is information that is outside the scope of your request.

Further, in accordance with the Department's policy as advised to you on 9 October 2019, I find that the following information in the requested documents, where ever it occurs, is irrelevant to the FOI request:

- any person's signature;
- the names and contact details of Australian Public Service officers not in the Senior Executive Service (SES);
- mobile or direct numbers of SES officers that are not publicly available; and
- the names and contact details of Ministerial staff at a level below Chief of Staff.

In accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act, I have also excluded the parts of the requested documents that contain the above details, where relevant.

Publication of Documents

Under section 11C of the FOI Act, the Department will arrange to publish the documents released to you on the Department's FOI Disclosure Log.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Complaint rights

You may make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about the Department's actions in relation to this decision. Making a complaint about the way the Department has handled an FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of the Department's decision. Further information about how to make a complaint is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints>.



Stephen Heskett
Assistant Secretary
Shared Services Branch
31 October 2019