



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI

FOI/2019/403

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

REQUEST BY: Mr Jack Skinner

**DECISION BY: Ms Alex Cullum
A/g Assistant Secretary
Ministerial and Parliamentary Support
Branch**

By email: foi+request-6043-c484027d@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Skinner

On 31 December 2019, you made a request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*, in the following terms:

I request the release of the Prime Ministers calendar and location for 31 December 2019 showing any functions attended or hosted and their location on that day.

For each function or appointment the Prime Minister attended or hosted on 31 December 2019, I request the release of the full list of guests in attendance including their respective organisation and position held.

For each function the Prime Minister attended or hosted on 31 December 2019 I request documents or emails relating to the following topics to be made available:

- Decisions on the selection criteria for guests*
- All communications to guests in relation to attending functions.*
- Any formal invitation documents.*
- A summary of expenses and costs associated with hosting, catering for, and entertaining guests at these functions.*

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.

Document searches undertaken by the Department

The Department conducted searches of documents held by the Department to determine if the Department held a document within the scope of the specific terms of your request. The Department did not locate a document within the scope of your request.

Decision

I have decided to refuse your request under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

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

- the terms of your request;
- searches undertaken in relation to your request;
- the provisions of the FOI Act;
- consultation with the Department's FOI advisers; and
- the Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act ('the FOI Guidelines').

My reasons are set out below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24A(1) of the FOI Act provides that:

An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:

(a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document; and

(b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:

- (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or*
- (ii) does not exist.*

I am satisfied that the Department has taken all reasonable steps to identify documents relevant to your request and that no documents relevant to your request (if they exist) are held by the Department. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act.

Processing and access charges

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

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/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint/>.



Alex Cullum
A/g Assistant Secretary
Ministerial and Parliamentary Support Branch
30 January 2020