

Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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FOI/2020/024

FOI

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

REQUEST BY:

Jason Potts

DECISION BY:

Peter Rush

Assistant Secretary

Parliamentary and Government Branch

By email: foi+request-6112-e5dead60@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Potts

I refer to your email, dated 31 January 2020, 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 seek access to any document contained within Ms Stephanie Foster's (Deputy Secretary – Governance, at PMC) email client (likely Microsoft Outlook) that contains either (or both) of the following terms:

- i) "Bettina Arndt"; and/or
- ii) "Hadgkiss"

Documents falling within the scope of my request can be quickly identified and retrieved by searching all items (including archived items) in Ms Foster's PMC issued email account for the terms "Bettina Arndt" and/or "Hadgkiss".

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 located 20 documents within the scope of your request (the **requested documents**).

Decision

I have decided to grant access, in full, to the requested documents, with irrelevant information removed under section 22 of the FOI Act.

Postal Address: PO Box 6500, CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: +61 2 6271 5849 Fax: +61 2 6271 5776 www.pmc.gov.au ABN: 18 108 001 191

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

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.

In accordance with section 22 of the FOI Act, I have removed the parts of the requested documents that contain irrelevant information that is outside the scope of your request. I have also excluded duplicate information in the requested documents (such as duplicate email trails), wherever relevant, to facilitate the processing of your request.

Charges

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

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 can be found on the web site of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/.

Complaint rights

Information about your complaint rights can be found on the web site of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/.

Yours sincerely

Peter Rush

Assistant Secretary

Parliamentary and Government Branch

2 March 2020

FOI REQUEST: FOI/2019/024

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

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