



Australian Government
Department of Health

Department Reference: FOI 1587

Mr John Smith

Via email: foi+request-6222-3e20e8bb@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Smith

**NOTICE OF DECISION: UNDER SECTION 24A
OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982**

Request for access to documents under the FOI Act

I refer to your request of 12 March to the Department of Health (department) seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act) to the following documents:

'The final report supplied by McKinsey Pacific Rim Inc to the department, associated with commonwealth tender ID: CN3507487. Contract period was 15 May 2018 to 31 Dec 2018, contract value was \$4.62M'

On 9 April 2020, you refined the scope of your request to the following:

'The document I have specified within my FOI request is a single specific, and a high-level document provided to the department.'

On this basis, I have interpreted your application under the FOI Act as a request for access to a document that is:

'a single, specific and high level report delivered by McKinsey to the department associated with the contract for Specialised Secretariat Support for the Medical Benefit Schedule Review.'

I am writing to advise you of my decision.

Decision on Access

I am authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to Freedom of Information requests.

All reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents referred to in your request including a thorough and extensive search including consultation with the relevant policy and program areas.

Thorough searches have been conducted of:

- the departmental file management system;
- electronic documents on the department's Parliamentary Document Management System; and
- individual and group email accounts.

I am satisfied the searches conducted were thorough and all reasonable steps have been taken to locate documents relevant to your request.

I am satisfied the documents to which you have sought access under the FOI Act do not exist. As a consequence, relying on section 24A of the FOI Act, I cannot provide access to any of the documents you requested.

Review rights

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for an internal review or Australian Information Commissioner (Information Commissioner) review of the decision.

Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply in writing to the department for an internal review of my decision. The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this notice (or such further period as the department allows). Where possible please provide reasons why you consider review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by another officer of this department within 30 days. An application for an internal review should be addressed to:

Email: FOI@health.gov.au
OR
Mail: FOI Unit (MDP 516)
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Information Commissioner Review

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Information Commissioner to review my decision. An application for review must be made in writing within 60 days of this notice (if you do not request an internal review).

The Australian Information Commissioner can be contacted by:

Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 363 992

More about the Information Commissioner review is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) website at

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>

You may also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the department in relation to your application. Further information can be obtained from the OAIC website.

Relevant provisions

The FOI Act, including the provisions referred to in this letter, can be accessed from the Federal Register of Legislation website:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2020C00110>

Additional Information

While the department does not hold the document to which you have sought access, I can provide information outside the FOI Act regarding the type of information to which you have sought access

Final Report

In your email of 9 April 2020, you requested access to a 'single specific' and 'final report' provided to the department associated with the above stated Commonwealth contract.

McKinsey has not provided a document that could reasonably be described as a 'final report'. The work performed by McKinsey Pacific Rim Inc. in relation to this contract was the provision of research and secretariat services to the MBS Review Taskforce and some of the sub-committees it established as part of its independent, clinician-led review of the more than 5,700 items on the MBS. The research and secretariat services included the development of statistical analysis, research papers, and agenda papers for the meetings of the Taskforce and some of its sub-committees.

This work informed:

- the deliberations of the Taskforce and some of its sub-committees and the development of the draft recommendations of the Taskforce that were the subject of consultation with stakeholders;
- analysis of the feedback received from this consultation; and
- the development of some of the Taskforce's final recommendations to the Government.

There is, however, no single specific document or final report associated with this work.

I hope the additional information provided about this contract is useful.

Contacts

If you require clarification of my decisions under the FOI Act or the other matters discussed in this letter, please contact Freedom of Information Unit on (02) 6289 1666 or at FOI@health.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



David Weiss
First Assistant Secretary
Medical Benefits Division

7 May 2020