



FOI Reference: LEX2125

File No:20/15968

30 November 2020

Mr Peter Timmins

By email: foi+request-6413-96a89396@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Timmins

Re. Freedom of Information Request

The purpose of this letter is to give you a decision about access to documents that you requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

On 18 June 2020 you requested:

"...a copy of the audit report on Australia's engagement in key multilateral institutions mentioned and summarised in the speech by the Minister to the National Security College on 16 June."

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests. I have identified one document relevant to your request and, after careful consideration of it, I have decided to exempt it in full.

In making my decision I have taken into account your request and the document that falls within its scope, the FOI Act, and the guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act. The reasons for my decision are set out below. Sections of the FOI Act referenced in my decision letter can be found online at www.legislation.gov.au

The document is exempt because it was submitted to the Cabinet for its consideration and was brought into existence for the dominant purpose of submission for consideration by the Cabinet (section 34(1)(a) of the FOI Act). In reaching this decision I have consulted the Cabinet Secretariat at the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. The Cabinet Secretariat supports the application of this exemption.

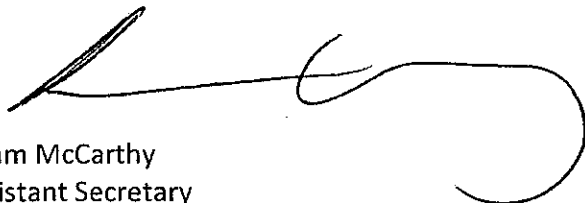
The document is exempt as its release would or could reasonably be expected to cause damage to Australia's international relations (section 33(a)(iii) of the FOI Act). The document sets out Commonwealth views on the multilateral system and identifies threats posed our interests, the specific identification of which would, or could reasonably be expected to, damage Australia's relations with nations, nation groups and multilateral institutions.

The document is exempt as its release would or could reasonably be expected to cause damage to Australia's national security (section 33(a)(i) of the FOI Act).

Your review rights are set out in the Attachment for your reference.

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact the FOI and Privacy Law Section by email to foi@dfat.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized name.

Adam McCarthy
Assistant Secretary
Multilateral Order Branch

Your review rights

Internal review

You may apply for internal review of the decision (section 54 of the FOI Act). The internal review application must be made within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Where possible, please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary.

The internal review will be carried out by another officer within 30 days.

Any request for internal review should be directed via email to foi@dfat.gov.au or addressed to:

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

Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply within 60 days of the date of this letter to the Australian Information Commissioner to review my decision (section 54L of the FOI Act).

You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner about the Department's actions in relation to this decision (section 70 of the FOI Act). Making such a complaint about the way the Department has handled your FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of my decision.

Further information on applying for an Australian Information Commissioner review is available at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>

Further information about how to make a complaint is available at: <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-complaints>