



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
CHIEF OF STAFF

Reference: FOI/PMO/2014/029

10 AUG 2014

Mr Ben Fairless

By email: foi+request-657-8fbd136@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Fairless

I refer to your email dated 21 June 2014 in which you made a request addressed to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) as follows:

I make a request for documents created after the 2013 September election which details how your staff handle Social Media on your behalf.

This request specifically includes, but is not limited to:

1 - Policies, Procedures or Guidelines on how social media is to be managed on your behalf on the below social media channels:

- "Tony Abbott" Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/TonyAbbottMP>
- "Tony Abbott" Twitter Account - <https://twitter.com/TonyAbbottMHR> and
- Other social media sites where the communication is made as to appear to be from you or your office.

2 - Policies, Procedures or Guidelines on who is authorised to post a message on your behalf on the above mentioned social media outlets.

3 - Policies, Procedures or Guidelines issued to authorised persons in point 2 above on topics which should not be discussed via Social Media.

The above request is subject to the following exclusions:

- Duplicates of the same documents (or parts of documents)

Authorised decision-maker

Under arrangements in place for FOI requests made to the Prime Minister, I am authorised to make FOI decisions on his behalf.

Search for documents

To my knowledge, the Office of the Prime Minister (the Office) does not hold the documents you seek.

As such, I have not instituted a search as I know that no such documents would be found. I have consulted however with relevant members of staff to confirm that no such documents would exist in the Office.

Decision on access

Subsection 24A(1) of the FOI Act provides in part 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 all reasonable steps have been taken to identify whether the document sought exists and I am satisfied that no such document is in the possession of the Prime Minister or his office. I have therefore made a decision to refuse your FOI request under subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Processing and access charges

I have decided not to impose a processing charge in respect of your FOI request.

Review and complaint rights

In accordance with the requirements of the FOI Act, I enclose information setting out your rights of review and complaint.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the FOI request, please contact the Department on (02) 6271 5849.

Yours sincerely



PETA CREDLIN