



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

FOI

FOI/2020/203

#### *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982*

**REQUEST BY:** Francis Unmeopa

**DECISION BY:** Peter Rush  
Assistant Secretary  
Parliamentary and Government Branch

By email: [foi+request-6670-951754c3@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-6670-951754c3@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Unmeopa

I refer to your email, dated 1 September 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:

*The Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal has been awarded to Australians from General Electric Infrastructure, Water and Process Technologies; and Aspen Medical Pty Ltd.*

*I respectfully seek the Department's assessments for public review justifying the award of the medal to these commercial contractors.*

#### **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.

#### **Decision**

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

#### **Reasons**

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

*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.*

The Department is responsible for administering the award of the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal (the **HOSM**). The Department's administration of the HOSM does not include assessments for public review.

On that basis, I am satisfied that documents meeting the terms of your request do not exist. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 24A(1)(b)(ii) 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/>.

### **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/>.

Yours sincerely



Peter Rush  
Assistant Secretary  
Parliamentary and Government Branch

24 September 2020