



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1407F887
File No: 14/24722
Date: 15 August 2014

Mr Ben Fairless
foi+request-696-4af112b9@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Fairless

Re: Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your current request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:
"records detailing the IPv4 (and if relevant, IPv6) addresses used to access the public internet from within your network."

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make access decisions, and have been appointed to be the decision-maker on your request as required by departmental procedures. I have been provided with the document identified in searches within the Department as relevant to your request.

Decision

After careful consideration of the material and the terms and context of your request, I have identified one document as being relevant to your request. I have decided to exempt the document in full.

Section 26 of the FOI Act provides that where access to a document has been denied in full or in part, a statement must be provided to the applicant setting out findings on material questions of fact, the material on which those findings were based, and the reasons for the decision. Please find this information below.

Material considered

The material on which my decision is based includes:

- the request and the documents within the scope of the request;
- the FOI Act;
- the Guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act; and
- advice from the Attorney-General's Department about cyber security related FOI requests.

Reasons for my decision, including any material findings of fact

The reasons for my decision are set out below.

The material you seek is exempt from disclosure under section 33(a)(i) of the Act, which provides as follows:

A document is an exempt document if disclosure of the document under this Act:

- a) *would, or could reasonably be expected to, cause damage to*
 - i. *the security of the Commonwealth*

The material in question is exempt from disclosure as its release could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security of the Commonwealth through a security breach in Australian communications systems.

When aggregated across the whole-of-government, the release of the Australian Government information related to IT infrastructure design (such as IP addresses) could appreciably raise the risk profile of government agencies. Release of this information may lead to increased effectiveness of malicious activity targeting government networks. This constitutes a potential threat to the security of Commonwealth networks and communication systems, and to the proper and efficient conduct of each agency's operations.

Your review rights

Internal review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of my access decision. Your request in writing within 30 days of the date of this letter should be directed to:

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

Australian Information Commissioner

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review by the Australian Information Commissioner of my access decision. You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner under section 70 on the Department's performance of its functions or the exercise of power under the FOI Act.

Your request for review or complaint should be directed to:

GPO Box 2999
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 1300 363 992
Fax: (02) 9284 9666
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning actions taken by an agency in the exercise of its powers or, more specifically, the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation of your complaint.

You may complain to the Ombudsman by calling or writing to:

Commonwealth Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
Canberra ACT 2601
Telephone: 1300 362 072
Fax: (02) 6249 7829

Should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact your FOI case officer Lindy Judge on (02) 6261 1701.

Yours sincerely



Kevin O'Hanlon
Assistant Secretary
Information Services Branch
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Judge, Lindy

From: Ben Fairless <foi+request-696-4af112b9@righttoknow.org.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 16 July 2014 7:15 PM
To: FOI
Subject: Freedom of Information request - IT Network Documentation - IPv4/v6 Public Facing addresses

Categories: Yellow Category

Dear Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

I am writing to you to request information pertaining to your Information Technology infrastructure.

Namely, I am after records detailing the IPv4 (and if relevant, IPv6) addresses used to access the public internet from within your network.

To clarify, these are the public facing addresses of your private network. I am only requesting addresses that are used to access the general public internet.

In addition, if it is such that a particular IP address serves a particular area within your department (for example, one IP address is used for Media Relations, while another is used for Ministerial Communications), I also request access to this information.

To assist you in locating this information, I suggest it would be found in network documentation, or at the very least in configuration files of your router and firewall equipment.

Please do not hesitate to reply if you require clarification to fulfil this request.

I look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Fairless

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

foi+request-696-4af112b9@righttoknow.org.au

Is foi@dfat.gov.au the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change_request/new?body=dfat

Write your response as plain text. Only send PDF documents as a last resort. Government guidelines make it clear that PDF is not an acceptable format for you to use in the delivery of government information.

<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers#pdf>

This request is being made by an individual using the Right to Know website. The unique email address provided by the service for this request satisfies s.15(2)(c) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclaimer: This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. Our privacy and copyright policies:

<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers>

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.
