



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI

FOI/2014/129

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

**REQUEST BY: Ben Fairless
Through Right to Know**

**DECISION BY: Radi Kovacevic
Chief Information Officer**

FOI request

In an email dated 16 July 2014 the applicant 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:

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.

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 access to any relevant documents, in full, under sections 33 of the FOI Act. My reasons for the decision appear below.

Reasons for decision

Section 33(a)(i) of the FOI Act provides that a document is an exempt document if disclosure of the document would, or could reasonably be expected to, cause damage to the security of the Commonwealth. This section is attached to this decision.

It is the security practice of Commonwealth agencies not to explicitly publish or otherwise make public the details of their IT infrastructure design. The release of the Australian Government information related to IT infrastructure design (such as IP addresses) could raise the risk profile of government agencies and constitute a potential threat to the security of Commonwealth networks and communication systems, and to the proper and efficient conduct of each agency's operations.

As the documents requested relate to the department's IT Infrastructure design, I am satisfied the information is exempt under section 33(a)(i) of the FOI Act.

I have refused access to the documents accordingly.

Processing and access charges

I have made a decision not to charge in relation to this decision.

Review and complaint rights

I understand that information about the applicant's rights of review and complaint will be provided together with this decision.

If the applicant has any questions regarding my decision, he should contact the Department at foi@pmc.gov.au or by phone on (02) 6271 5849.

Yours sincerely,



Radi Kovacevic
Chief Information Officer

12 August 2014

Relevant provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

33 Documents affecting national security, defence or international relations

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;
 - (ii) the defence of the Commonwealth; or
 - (iii) the international relations of the Commonwealth; or
- (b) would divulge any information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a foreign government, an authority of a foreign government or an international organization to the Government of the Commonwealth, to an authority of the Commonwealth or to a person receiving the communication on behalf of the Commonwealth or of an authority of the Commonwealth.

Note: See also subsection 4(10).

