From: Minogue, Matt
Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2014 4:39 PM
To: S22(1) (REPS); 'John McMillan'
Cc: S22(1) (REPS); S22(1)
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello S22(1) and John

I appreciate deferring the briefing

Regards

Matt

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

-----Original Message-----
From: S22(1) (REPS) S22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 04:23 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time
To: 'John McMillan'
Cc: Minogue, Matt; S22(1) (REPS)
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

John,

The Chair is happy to postpone the briefing.

The next meeting of the JCPAA is 12 February 2015.

We will follow up with you shortly to discuss the details.

Thank you

S22(1)
From: John McMillan [mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx]
Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2014 3:54 PM
To: (REPS)
Cc: Minogue, Matt
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary
Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

John
Protecting information rights – advancing information policy

From: S22(1) (REPS) S22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2014 4:17 PM
To: John McMillan
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thank you John. Yes, I just saw that S22(1) has left.

Do you have a pass to get into the parliamentary committee room area?

S22(1)

From: John McMillan [mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx]
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2014 3:55 PM
To: S22(1) (REPS)
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Phew – thanks S22(1). I was midway through a response, as I’m in Syd on Wed. You will also have got a ‘I’ve left msg’ from S22(1) My mobile phone if you need to chase me further (our landlines have also left!) is S47F(1)

And yep – Thurs is fine as agreed

John

From: S22(1) (REPS) S22(1)
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2014 3:52 PM
To: S22(1)
Cc: John McMillan
Subject: FW: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

My apologies – the private briefing is as previously arranged - Thursday 4 December not tomorrow (Wed 3 Dec).

Kind regards
Dear [REPS],

I would like to confirm that Prof McMillan is still able to provide the briefing tomorrow?

The time and venue remain the same.

Please be advised that although the briefing is scheduled for 10.45 am, there may be a few minutes delay while the Committee completes its private business.

Representatives of the Attorney General’s Department will also be present.

Kind regards

Inquiry Secretary BA-LLB
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Suite 108, Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600

xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx
www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa

From: [REPS] (REPS) On Behalf Of Committee, JCPAA (REPS)
Sent: Tuesday, 2 December 2014 3:51 PM
To: [REPS]
Cc: John McMillan
Subject: RE: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hello

I would like to accept, on behalf of John McMillan, your invitation to brief the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit on Thursday, 4 December at 10.45am.

Thank you

---

**Please note:** The Australian Government has introduced a Bill into Parliament to abolish the OAIC on 31 December 2014. From 1 January 2015 privacy matters will be handled by the Australian Privacy Commissioner. For more information about how the OAIC will handle FOI and privacy matters until 31 December 2014 please see our website.

---

Hi,

This just came in. Can I leave it with you to pass along?

Thanks!

---

Dear Colleagues

I am writing on behalf of Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit to invite Professor John McMillan to brief the Committee at 10.45 am on Thursday 4th December 2014 about the changes to his OAIC. The briefing (30 mins) will be
part of a private meeting held in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra. The committee will also invite the Attorney-General’s Department to attend.

Could you please either refer this invitation directly to Professor McMillan’s office, or provide me with a more direct contact email or phone number? Your prompt reply will be appreciated so I can ensure Professor McMillan is available.

Kind regards

S22(1)

BA-LLB Inquiry Secretary
Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit
Suite 108, Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
T S22(1) E S22(1)

xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx
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Regards

Matt

Sent with Good (www.good.com)

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To: S22(1) (REPS) S22(1)
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Date: Wednesday, December 03, 2014 04:23 PM AUS Eastern Standard Time

John,

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We will follow up with you shortly to discuss the details.

Thank you

S22(1)

S22(1) Inquiry Secretary BA-LLB
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Suite 108, Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
T S22(1) E S22(1)

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[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

S22(1)

S47C(1)

John McMillan | Australian Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 4 National Circuit, CANBERRA
GPO Box 2999 CANBERRA ACT 2601 | www.oaic.gov.au
Phone: +61 2 6239 9124 | Fax: 6239 9190
Email: xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Protecting information rights – advancing information policy
Thank you John. Yes, I just saw that S22(1) has left.

Do you have a pass to get into the parliamentary committee room area?

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Phew – thanks S22(1). I was midway through a response, as I’m in Syd on Wed. You will also have got a ‘I've left msg’ from S22(1). My mobile phone if you need to chase me further (our landlines have also left!) is S47F(1)

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Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Suite 108, Department of the House of Representatives
Parliament House, CANBERRA ACT 2600
T S22(1) E S22(1)

xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx
www.aph.gov.au/jcpaa

From: S22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 29 October 2014 11:37 AM
To: S22(1) (REPS)
Cc: John McMillan
Subject: FW: New Freedom of Information and Privacy Arrangements - Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit - Invitation Dr Southcott MP Chair JCPAA
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Importance: High

Hello S22(1)

I would like to accept, on behalf of John McMillan, your invitation to brief the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit on Thursday, 4 December at 10.45am.

Documents released by the Attorney-General's Department under the Freedom of Information Act 1982
Thank you

Please note: The Australian Government has introduced a Bill into Parliament to abolish the OAIC on 31 December 2014. From 1 January 2015 privacy matters will be handled by the Australian Privacy Commissioner. For more information about how the OAIC will handle FOI and privacy matters until 31 December 2014 please see our website.

Hi

This just came in. Can I leave it with you to pass along?

Thanks!

Dear Colleagues

I am writing on behalf of Dr Andrew Southcott MP, Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Accounts and Audit to invite Professor John McMillan to brief the Committee at 10.45 am on Thursday 4th December 2014 about the changes to his OAIC. The briefing (30 mins) will be part of a private meeting held in Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra. The committee will also invite the Attorney-General’s Department to attend.

Could you please either refer this invitation directly to Professor McMillan’s office, or provide me with a more direct contact email or phone number? Your prompt reply will be appreciated so I can ensure Professor McMillan is available.

Kind regards
Tks Paul. Much appreciated
John

Sent from my iPhone

On 3 Dec 2014, at 5:06 pm, "Pfitzner, Paul" wrote:

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi John,

I have not yet seen the Senate program for tomorrow. However, a notice of motion was tabled in the Senate (attached), S47C(1)

Thanks,
Paul

Paul Pfitzner
A/g Assistant Secretary
Legal Services Policy Branch (incorporating the Office of Legal Services Coordination)
Attorney-General's Department


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<3 december_notices.pdf>
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Paul Pfitzner
A/g Assistant Secretary
Legal Services Policy Branch (incorporating the Office of Legal Services Coordination)
Attorney-General’s Department

T: 02 6141 3185 | M: S47F(1)
E: xxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxx.xx | W: www.ag.gov.au/olsc
ROUTINE OF BUSINESS—VARIATION—THURSDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

(at giving of notices)

MINISTER:

I give notice that, on the next day of sitting, I shall move—That—

(a) on Thursday, 4 December 2014:

(i) the hours of meeting shall be 9.30 am to adjournment,

(ii) the routine of business from not later than 8 pm shall be consideration of the government business orders of the day listed in paragraph (b);

(iii) divisions may take place after 4.30 pm, and

(iv) if the Senate is sitting at 11 pm, the sitting of the Senate shall be suspended till 9 am on Friday, 5 December 2014;

(b) on each calendar day after Thursday, 4 December 2014 until the Senate has finally considered the bills listed below, including any messages from the House of Representatives:

National Water Commission (Abolition) Bill 2014

Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Bill 2014

Migration Amendment (Protection and Other Measures) Bill 2014

Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2013

Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill 2014

Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment (Student Measures) Bill 2014,

the hours of meeting shall be 9 am to 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm to 11 pm and if the Senate is still sitting at 11 pm, the sitting of the Senate be suspended till 9 am the following day; and

(c) the Senate shall adjourn after it has finally considered the bills listed in paragraph (b), or a motion for the adjournment is moved by a minister, whichever is the earlier.

Senator Fifield
OAICnet — 8 December 2014

OAIC to remain operational until further notice

The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014, which proposes the closure of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on 31 December 2014, was not considered by the Senate before the end of the 2014 sitting period.

The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. We are liaising with the Australian Government about transition arrangements for freedom of information matters. In the meantime, Information Commissioner reviews will continue to be handled by the OAIC. Freedom of information (FOI) complaints will be referred to the Commonwealth Ombudsman. The OAIC will continue to administer other statutory elements of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 including Extension Of Time applications. The OAIC will also continue to administer the Privacy Act 1988.

Keep an eye on the OAIC website for further updates.

If you would like to subscribe to the OAICnet eNewsletter please subscribe on our website.
hello John

thanks – I think a link up is a good idea

would tomorrow after 3.30 be ok for you?

Wednesday is doable but tight around the middle of the day

Matt

Best time for a meeting for us is tuesday or around midday wed. James and I could either come in, or phone in. And the syd crowd could phone in (altho a couple are in town on wed).

I can be contacted thru this email or on

John

Sent from my iPad

On 8 Dec 2014, at 9:13 am, Minogue, Matt <xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx> wrote:
hello all

an early start for us

Matt

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<AGD_Additional_Program_SBE14-15 (2).pdf>

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<AGD_Additional_Program_SBE14-15 (2).pdf>
Attached is the internal paper we prepared on our estimate of workload and resources. As mentioned at the meeting, we would ask that this is given limited circulation, although it is likely that some of the points in the paper will come out in response to Senate Estimates questions.

See you there tomorrow. If there is anything to discuss I can be reached on this email or .

John

WARNING: The information contained in this email may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use or copying of any part of this information is unauthorised. If you have received this email in error, we apologise for any inconvenience and request that you notify the sender immediately and delete all copies of this email, together with any attachments.
OAIC analysis of FOI workload and assumptions after 1 January 2015

The FOI Act requires the OAIC to undertake statutory administrative actions to manage and record incoming enquiries, IC reviews and applications for an EOT under ss 15AB and 15AC. There is no application fee for IC review.

FOI complaints will be referred to the Ombudsman.

In the interim period, it is proposed the OAIC continue to undertake a streamlined IC review process consistent with the recent approach focusing on triage and early resolution. We note that recent matters have been effectively dealt under this model (40% declined, 30% resolved and withdrawn, 15% Commissioner decision, 5% referred to AAT).

Matters that are complex or resource intensive or where the applicant requests will be finalised under s 54W(b) and the applicant can elect to pursue the matter in the AAT.

IC review related workload
- Responding to written and phone enquiries regarding FOI, and service delivery enquiries/complaints concerning OAIC actions
- Referring FOI complaints to Commonwealth Ombudsman
- Assessment, data entry, decision making and notification of decision for EOT’s
- Assessing IC review applications for validity/substance
- Handling IC reviews that are straightforward/easy to resolve (note 70% figure above)
- Referring unresolved/complex/resource intensive/precedent matters to AAT
- Managing administration of existing vexatious litigant declarations, and handling fresh enquiries and applications from agencies (the ultimate step is a declaration, but discussion of application with applicant will often modify request behaviour)
- Handling complaints, FOI requests and administration related to legacy FOI issues
- Handling any AD(JR) applications and requests for reasons relating to OAIC actions under revised model
- Maintaining web based information
- Data entry of FOI statistics, and preparing FOI component of OAIC annual report if functions discharged till end of reporting year, ie, 30 June

FOI Statistics

Current caseload is 216 open IC reviews.

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</table>
These statistics followed the announcement of the closure of the OAIC. Prior to May 2014 the OAIC received on average 50 IC reviews per month and 250 EOT’s per month.

Resources required for managing FOI workload and exercising IC review referral function (54W(b) option)

S47C(1)

Additional resources for streamlined IC review process

S47C(1)

Staff profile for streamlined FOI functions to July 2015

S47C(1)
UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks John. See you tomorrow.

-------------------
Paul Pfitzner
A/g Assistant Secretary
Legal Services Policy Branch (incorporating the Office of Legal Services Coordination)
Attorney-General’s Department

T: 02 6141 3185 | M: S47F(1) | E: xxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx | W: www.ag.gov.au/olsc

From: John McMillan [mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx]
Sent: Wednesday, 10 December 2014 4:58 pm
To: Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul; S22(1)
Subject: OAIC Workload and Resources Assessment [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Matt/Paul/S22(1)

S47C(1)

See you there tomorrow. If there is anything to discuss I can be reached on this email or  

John

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**********************************************************************
Hello Matt

As discussed this morning I have asked the AHRC Finance people to give me a short explanation of the issues relating to the lease of level 4, 4 National Circuit. They have provided me with the following:

There are two significant outstanding legal issues that need to be settled concerning the Canberra arrangements and your old offices.

1. Pending the restructure of the OAIC entity the Canberra assets scheduled to be transferred to the AGD are of course still the property of the OAIC and make up a material amount on the OAIC balance sheet. The major asset in Canberra is the office fit out – current book value between $600-$700k. There may also be some plant and equipment. Your legal area (do you have one?) or our legal area will need to draft some type of licence to give the AGD use of this fit out pending the restructure.

2. The OAIC is locked into a property sublease with AGD and they need to release you from it.

Hope this is clear and we would appreciate your assistance in resolving this.

Thanks

Timothy

*****************************************************************************
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*****************************************************************************
Hi Matt

Further to my email yesterday about the lease and assets associated with the OAIC’s rental of level 3, our Finance people have provided the following comments and attached spread sheet of assets.

The attached list sets out the OAIC’s assets held in Canberra – which are still on the OAIC books.

You may want to refer this to your leases area to review – as on reflection they need to maintain your lease in order for OAIC to continue to recognise the fit out asset (details of all OAIC Canberra assets attached)

So you may either need to suspend your payments while leaving the sublease in place or if you rent it out to another party it will (we are guessing) need to be as an assignment or sublease from your sublease. So you may need to get a property lawyer to look at the options and address these particularly if they are about to lease it out to another party.

Apparently, the accounting issues can’t be resolved until the lease issue is.

Regards

Timothy

Timothy Pilgrim | Privacy Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 175 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2001
GPO Box 5218 SYDNEY NSW 2001 | www.oaic.gov.au
Phone +61 2 9284 9601 | Fax +61 2 9284 9723
xxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Important update: The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 which proposes to close the OAIC on 31 December 2014 was not passed by the Australian Parliament before the end of the 2014 sitting period. The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. For further information see the OAIC website.

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UNCLASSIFIED

Hi

Yes that is the case.

Hope all is well with you.

Cheers

Hi

We have had a query about whether the OAIC website will remain as it is on 1 January, in terms of content and appearance etc as a consequence of the legislation not being passed.

Thanks

Legal Services and FOI Policy Section
Attorney-General's Department

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**********************************************************************
Fine – let’s assume it’s not going ahead.

John

---

**UNCLASSIFIED**

hello John

I’m not sure that there’s much we can usefully add to what we already know (or know that we don’t yet know). I’d be happy to defer if that’s ok

re tomorrow – not sure I’ll be able to make it but I’m still hoping

Matt

---

Matt

Our regular liaison meeting is scheduled for this Wed at 11am. The OAIC Exec is happy to go ahead, but it probably makes sense to do so only if there has been some relevant development since we met last Tues and Thurs at Estimates. We’re happy to leave the decision to go ahead till Wed morning if this is more convenient.

If the meeting does go ahead, James and I are happy to come into the office, but would probably opt to ring in if that is convenient.

Slightly related to that, James and I will both be attending an AIAL Access to Justice seminar (addressed by Warren Munday) at 4 National Cirt tomorrow Tuesday at 12.30pm. We are happy to meet either side of that meeting, formally or informally, if anything has arisen for discussion.

John

**********************************************************************
Secretary Meeting Brief – Meeting with Professor John McMillan AO, Australian Information Commissioner

2:30am – 3:00pm, Tuesday 27 January 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>KEY ISSUE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Office of the Australian Information Commissioner – interim arrangements for the regulation of privacy and FOI</strong></td>
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<td>• The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill (FOIA (NA) Bill) provides for the abolition of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). The Bill was due to commence on 1 January 2015 but passage has been delayed.</td>
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<td>• The OAIC will continue to operate but has limited capacity to undertake FOI work. The privacy functions are already funded on an ongoing basis and arrangements are in train for these funds to be made available to the OAIC.</td>
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<td>• AGD has been discussing with the OAIC a very minimal approach in which it only performs essential functions to ensure the FOI system continues to operate.</td>
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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>OTHER ISSUES</th>
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Background

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner – interim arrangements for the regulation of privacy and FOI

As the FOIA (NA) Bill has not been passed the OAIC will continue to operate and be responsible for the privacy functions which were due to be transferred to the Australian Human Rights Commission.

S47C(1)

The OAIC’s FOI functions are not funded and it no longer has any FOI staff. S47C(1)

Since 1 November 2014 all FOI complaints have been referred to the Ombudsman. The OAIC will continue to administer other statutory elements of the FOI regime such as applications for extensions of time and vexatious litigant declarations.

The OAIC’s FOI statistics database has already been transferred to AGD so agencies are already providing statistical data directly to AGD. S47C(1)

The Information Commissioner is appointed until 31 October 2015. The FOI Commissioner, Dr James Popple, was appointed to the AAT on 1 January 2015. The Privacy Commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, is able to exercise all the functions conferred on the FOI Commissioner. S47C(1)

The Joint Parliamentary Commission on Public Accounts and Audit has invited AGD and the Information Commissioner to attend a privacy meeting on the new FOI and privacy arrangements. This meeting has been scheduled for 12 February 2015, subject to confirmation.

S22(1)
ok great

Thanks

Matt

Matt Minogue
First Assistant Secretary
Civil Law Division

(telephone number 02 6141 3620)
2586 Indigenous signature block NEW4

Yep, you and I can talk Matt. Unless I hear otherwise from you I'll ring in at 10.30

John

but you and John could meet/talk.
**Important update:** The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 which proposes to close the OAIC on 31 December 2014 was not passed by the Australian Parliament before the end of the 2014 sitting period. The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. For further information see the OAIC website.

---

**From:** Minogue, Matt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 December 2014 4:13 PM  
**To:** John McMillan; Pfitzner, Paul; S22(1)  
**Cc:** Timothy Pilgrim  
**Subject:** RE: ... after 1 January ... [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

hi John and Timothy – are we a chance for tomorrow morning around 10.30 or 11.00

MAtt

---

**From:** John McMillan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 December 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul; S22(1)  
**Cc:** Timothy Pilgrim  
**Subject:** RE: ... after 1 January ... [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks Matt. Just rang but told you have gone into a meeting. I’ve left my mobile no. I’m available this afternoon and tomorrow. I can arrange a telephone hookup with Timothy this afternoon until 5pm, but otherwise can just pass on any news if that is the simpler way to proceed.

John

---

**From:** Minogue, Matt  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 23 December 2014 2:52 PM  
**To:** John McMillan; Pfitzner, Paul; S22(1)  
**Cc:** Timothy Pilgrim  
**Subject:** RE: ... after 1 January ... [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

John and Timothy

apologies – ive just realised this was an email I wrote earlier but did not send – hence the time to link up was rudely short. are you available this afternoon or tomorrow morning?

MAtt
hello John and Timothy

its only me today I’m afraid

is around 2.45 ok

Thanks

Matt

Matt Minogue
First Assistant Secretary
Civil Law Division

(telephone number 02 6141 3620)
2586 Indigenous signature block NEW4

Matt

Just writing to tee up a time to speak today if possible. Best times for Timothy and I are between 10.30 – 12, or after 2.00.

We can ring in, or I can drop in also.

John
Fine. I’m free all days next week, thought Timothy is not available on Wednesday. I can come in.
John

UNCLASSIFIED

hello John

yes using the OAIC budget is our expectation too

lets follow up next week about what’s need post 1 January and then early in the new year for a more settled view on what’s ahead

thanks

Matt

As you know, I’m still at work after 1 January, and we plan to have a few of the existing OAIC staff continue with FOI work (albeit on a minimal basis).

The implication is that we intend to use the OAIC budget after 1 January to pay me and those officers. I know you are working on future budget arrangements, and the situation may be resolved prior to 1 January.

However, I thought I’d put our intentions in writing, rather than leave it up in the air, so there are no sticky questions after 1 January.

Happy to discuss.
Sure thing. Let's touch base after the Bill has been debated.

Andrew

---

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi Andrew

We'd like to keep S22(1) on board here for the next week or so until we know the outcome of the Bill, then we will reconsider.

Regards

S22(1)

---

S22(1)

Principal Legal Officer

Legal Services and FOI Policy Section

Legal Services Policy Branch

Attorney-General's Department

---

I have another favour to ask. As you know we completed revisions to 13 of the 15 FOI Guideline Parts in early October with S22(1) assistance. John is looking to complete the task by bringing Parts 5 and 6 up to date before the end of the year. I was wondering if it would be possible to have S22(1) assistance again for 2 days to help me to complete this work. I'm not of exact timing yet but wanted to check if it would be ok first.
Kind regards

Andrew Solomon  |  Director
Regulation and Strategy Branch
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218 SYDNEY NSW 2001  |  www.oaic.gov.au
+61 2 9284 9708  |  xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Protecting information rights – advancing information policy

Please note: The Australian Government has introduced a Bill into Parliament to abolish the OAIC on 31 December 2014. From 1 January 2015 privacy matters will be handled by the Australian Privacy Commissioner. For more information about how the OAIC will handle FOI and privacy matters until 31 December 2014 please see our website.

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Ok then thanks

Timothy Pilgrim | Privacy Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 175 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2001
GPO Box 5218 SYDNEY NSW 2001 | www.oaic.gov.au
Phone +61 2 9284 9601 | Fax +61 2 9284 9723
xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Important update: The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 which proposes to close the OAIC on 31 December 2014 was not passed by the Australian Parliament before the end of the 2014 sitting period. The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. For further information see the OAIC website.

---

From: S22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 10:10 AM
To: John McMillan; Timothy Pilgrim; Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul
Cc: Karen Toohey; Angelene Falk
Subject: RE: OAIC/AGD Meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Thanks John
We’ll reschedule for next week

---

From: John McMillan [mailto:xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 10:04 AM
To: S22(1); Timothy Pilgrim; Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul
Cc: Karen Toohey; Angelene Falk
Subject: RE: OAIC/AGD Meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Fine – I’m free at the same time on Wed 4

John

---

From: S22(1)
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 9:57 AM
To: John McMillan; Timothy Pilgrim; Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul
Cc: Karen Toohey; Angelene Falk
Subject: RE: OAIC/AGD Meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Hi John and Timothy

so it suits you I propose that we postpone this week’s meeting.

Regards
Janine

Acting Assistant Secretary
Legal Services Policy Branch
Attorney-General’s Department

From: John McMillan [mailto:xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx]
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 8:41 AM
To: Timothy Pilgrim; Minogue, Matt; Pfitzner, Paul; Karen Toohey; Angelene Falk
Cc: 
Subject: RE: OAIC/AGD Meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Can I add that (if we’re meeting) I’m in Canberra today so will either need to ring in separately from Sydney or drop in to the AGD Canberra office.
John

From: Timothy Pilgrim
Sent: Wednesday, 28 January 2015 8:31 AM
To: Minogue, Matt; John McMillan; Pfitzner, Paul; Karen Toohey; Angelene Falk
Cc: 
Subject: OAIC/AGD Meeting [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Matt

I am just emailing to confirm our fortnightly meeting which is scheduled for 11.00am today.

Thanks

Timothy

Timothy Pilgrim | Privacy Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 175 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2001
Important update: The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 which proposes to close the OAIC on 31 December 2014 was not passed by the Australian Parliament before the end of the 2014 sitting period. The OAIC will therefore remain operational until further notice. For further information see the OAIC website.
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**ATTORNEY-GENERAL**

Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill S47C(1)

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*SENSITIVE: LEGAL*

Documents released by the Attorney-General's Department under the Freedom of Information Act 1982
Recommendation: I recommend that you:

(a) S47C(1) [Approved / Not Approved / Discuss]

(b) S47C(1) [Approved / Not Approved / Discuss]

(c) S47C(1) [Signed / Not Signed / Discuss]

(d) S47C(1) [Agreed / Not Agreed / Discuss]

(e) note the contingency plan if the passage of the Bill is delayed.

Noted / Discuss

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Attorney-General

/ /2014

AGD Clearing Officer: Matt Minogue, First Assistant Secretary, Civil Law Division, 02 6141 3620
Date Cleared: 27/11/2014
Branch Head: Paul Pfitzner, Legal Services Policy Branch, 02 6141 3185
Action Officer: S22(1) [Legal Services Policy, Ph: S22(1)]
Background

2. If the Bill does not pass before the end of the current sittings, the OAIC as an organisation will continue but will essentially be defunded in relation to ongoing FOI work. If this occurs:

   d) the FOI Commissioner, Dr James Popple, is appointed as a Senior Member of the AAT as planned;
   e) the Privacy Commissioner, Timothy Pilgrim, remains as Privacy Commissioner. The Privacy Commissioner is also able to exercise all the functions conferred on the FOI commissioner;
   f) S47C(1)

The OAIC would still get corporate and administrative services from the AHRC as is currently the case;

h) S47C(1)

i) S47C(1)

   the OAIC FOI Guidelines would still apply; and

j) S47C(1)

   the OAIC’s FOI statistics database has already been transferred to AGD so agencies are already providing statistical data directly to AGD. S47C(1)

ATTACHMENTS:

   S47C(1)

   S47C(1)
ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill - S47C(1)

S47C(1)

S47C(1)

S47C(1)
Recommendation: I recommend that you:

(a) S47C(1) Adopted / Not Approved / Discuss

(b) S47C(1) Adopted / Not Approved / Discuss

(c) S47C(1) Adopted / Not Approved / Discuss

(d) S47C(1) Adopted / Not Approved / Discuss

(e) note the contingency plan if the passage of the Bill is delayed.

Noted / Discuss

Attorney-General

AGD Clearing Officer: Matt Minogue, First Assistant Secretary, Civil Law Division, 02 6141 3620
Date Cleared: 27/11/2014
Branch Head: Paul Pfitzner, Legal Services Policy Branch, 02 6141 3185
Action Officer: S22(1) Legal Services Policy, Ph: S22(1)
Thanks John – will certainly let you know if we hear anything, otherwise we’ll see you next Wednesday.

Thanks,
Paul

Thanks Paul. We had in mind setting up a brief meeting with you tomorrow to take stock of developments, but in light of your advice and the referral of the Bill to a Committee I think we can hold over further discussion to our scheduled meeting next Wed 5 Nov. Of course, if you learn anything vital in the meantime we’d be grateful for early news.

John

---

John McMillan | Australian Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 4 National Circuit, CANBERRA
GPO Box 2999 CANBERRA ACT 2601 | www.oaic.gov.au
Phone: +61 2 6239 9124 | Fax: 6239 9190
Email: john.mcmillan@oaic.gov.au

Protecting information rights – advancing information policy

---

From: Pfitzner, Paul [mailto:Paul.Pfitzner@ag.gov.au]
John/all,

The Bill was referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee a short time ago, for report by 25 November. This will leave six Senate sittings days after that date for consideration.

I note for completeness there is a separate motion being debated in the Senate (the debate commenced but was interrupted – presumably will continue this afternoon) to extend sittings so that the Senate sits on the additional days of Monday 17-Wednesday 19 November (with the cancelled Estimates rescheduled for Thursday 20 November). This motion included a list of bills to be considered and the FOI Bill was part of that list, S47C(1)

S47C(1)

Thanks,
Paul

Paul Pfitzner
A/g Assistant Secretary
Legal Services Policy Branch (incorporating the Office of Legal Services Coordination)
Attorney-General’s Department

T: 02 6141 3185 | M: S47F(1) | E: xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xx.xxxx | W: www.ag.gov.au/olsc

Hello john

Yes we'd be happy to update you on where things are at. The debate itself didn't raise unexpected issues

Thanks
Dear Matt and Paul

We are watching with interest the Parliamentary progress of the Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014.

Our next fortnightly AGD-OAIC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 5 November. If you are in a position (on a confidential basis) to enlighten us prior to that meeting of any developments or thinking, could you do so? We are available for an impromptu meeting or call at short notice.

The following is an extract from the advice we have provided to our own staff this morning:

It is not yet clear when the Bill will be listed for debate in the Senate, the voting intentions of the independent and cross-bench Senators, or whether some other compromise arrangement will ensure the passage of the Bill. The present reality, however, is that the Government has made a Budget announcement to disband the OAIC by 31 December, and legislation to implement that announcement has been passed by the House.

The OAIC will continue to proceed under the current arrangements and deal as best we can with new complaints, review applications etc; and will proceed with our shut-down arrangements. We will keep you informed if anything changes.

We don’t propose to make any public comment at this stage and will direct any enquiries to our earlier statements.

John

John McMillan | Australian Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
Level 3, 4 National Circuit, CANBERRA
GPO Box 2999 CANBERRA ACT 2601 | www.oaic.gov.au
Phone: +61 2 6239 9124 | Fax: 6239 9190
Email: xxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx

Protecting information rights – advancing information policy
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