



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1502-F1084

File No: 15/10423

20 April 2015

Ms Evelyn Doyle

Sent by email to: foi+request-941-da9791a8@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Doyle

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to your current freedom of information request relating to ministerial negotiations relating to the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. On 3 March 2015, you revised the scope of your request to the following:

"A list of all business representatives, industry association representatives or lobbyists that accompanied the Minister for Trade, the Hon Andrew Robb MP to ministerial negotiations related to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) since September 2013 when Mr Robb was appointed to the Trade Portfolio. Please take the request to mean those who were invited to attend and/or who attended, even if they did not specifically accompany the Minister".

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions, and have been appointed to be the decision-maker on your request in line with departmental procedures.

I advise that a search of the Department's file records by staff at the Office of Trade Negotiations has not identified any document relevant to the scope of your request. I am advised that some industry representatives made themselves available to Australian negotiators on the sidelines of TPP Ministerial meetings held since September 2013 of their own accord, and therefore, the Department does not have a list or record of these representatives.

I am therefore unable to meet your request in accordance with the provisions of section 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act, as DFAT holds no documents relevant to your request.

Please find your rights of review outlined below.

Internal review

Under the provisions of section 54 of the FOI Act, you are entitled to request a review of my access refusal decision.

Your request should be made in writing and sent within 30 days of receipt of this letter addressed 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 refusal 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 addressed to:

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 2999
Canberra City ACT 2601
email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
Telephone: 1300 363 992
Fax: (02) 9284 9666

Complaints to the Commonwealth Ombudsman

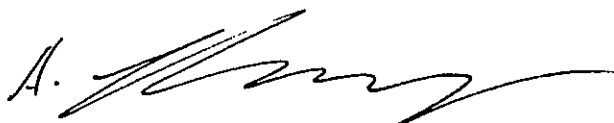
You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning actions taken by an agency in the exercise of its powers or, more specifically, the performance of its functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. The Ombudsman will conduct an independent investigation of your complaint.

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

Commonwealth Ombudsman
Level 5, Childers Square,
14 Childers Street
Canberra City ACT 2601
email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au
Telephone: 1300 362 072
Fax: (02) 6276 0123

Should you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact the Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section by email to: foi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Ada Cheung
Acting Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section