



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1304-F543

File No: 13/6999

9 May 2013

Mr William Mudford
c/- Right-To-Know

Transmitted by email to W M (foi+request-95-23f7ddeb@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Mudford

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to my email of 1 May 2013 and your current request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

“documents that relate to the cost of sending John Howard to attend the funeral of Margaret Thatcher on behalf of Australia”

Preliminary searches for documents relevant to your request have been completed. The next step is to consider the application of section 29 of the FOI Act, which concerns the charge, if any, for processing your request.

I am authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions on the charge for processing your request. I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge. Our preliminary assessment of the amount of that charge is \$15.00.

Now that we have given you written notice of our preliminary assessment of the amount of the charge for processing your request, section 29 provides that you have 30 days within which to:

- agree to pay the charge;
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed; or
- withdraw your request.

Should you agree to pay the charge, the *Freedom of Information (Fees & Charges) Regulations* requires that a deposit of \$20.00 be paid where the estimated total cost is less than \$100, before processing commences. In the current circumstances you are required to pay the full amount of \$15.00 before processing commences. Please make your cheque or money order payable to 'The National Cashier – DFAT'. An authorisation form to arrange payment of the application fee by credit card is enclosed if you prefer to pay the fee by Visa or Mastercard.

Should you contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed, you will now need to apply for the Department to waive or reduce the charge. A departmental decision-maker will then make a decision on whether the charge should be imposed, and in what amount. The decision will take account of any contentions you may make. The Department may waive or reduce the charge for any reason, including where:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause you financial hardship, or
- the giving of access to documents relevant to your request is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

Please note that the onus to demonstrate that charges should be reduced or waived on these or other grounds is on you as the applicant.

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that the 30 day period within which we should process your request is suspended until we receive your payment for processing your request, or we decide not to impose a charge. Should you withdraw your request at this stage no charge will be imposed.

If we do not receive your response to this letter within 30 days of its receipt, I will consider that you no longer wish to continue with your request, and I will deem it withdrawn.

Should you have any queries, or would like to discuss revising the terms of your request, please contact me on (02) 6261 3470, or your case officer, John Scott (02) 6261 3212 or by email tofoi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Ada Cheung
Acting Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Credit Card Payment for Freedom of Information (FOI) Charges

Name _____
Address _____

Payment of Charges: (In Full)

For a sum of \$15.00 as detailed in the FOI Estimate of Charges letter dated 9 May 2013 (FOI ref: 1304-F543).

I authorise the National Cashier of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to debit my

VISA MASTER CARD

- - - Expiry: ____/____

Name appearing on card _____

Signature: _____