



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOI Ref: 1502-F1083
File No: 15/11240
16 March 2015

Scott H
foi+request-952-4263f2b4@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Scott H

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request

I refer to your letter of 19 February 2015 in which you seek access under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

“Any and all of correspondence between the Minister of Foreign Affairs The Hon Julie Bishop and the Prime Minister The Hon Anthony Abbott, Regarding the Treatment of Asylum Seekers in Australian Detention Centers.”

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 centralised search of the Department's file records has failed to identify any documents relevant to the scope of your request. I also tasked the line areas which deal with ministerial-level correspondence as well as the subject matter in which you are interested to undertake searches in their databases and electronic filing systems. These searches have not yielded any results. The Foreign Minister's Office has also advised that it holds no relevant documents.

I am therefore unable to meet your request in accordance with the provisions of section 24A(1)(b)(ii) 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
foi@dfat.gov.au

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 your FOI case officer Lindy Judge on (02) 6261 1701 or by email to foi@dfat.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Indra McCormick
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section