



Australian Government

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Our reference: FOIREQ22/00371

Attention: Julie

By Email: foi+request-9535-cda942b6@righttoknow.org.au

Your Freedom of Information Request – FOIREQ22/00371

Dear Julie

I refer to your request for access to documents made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act) and received by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on 5 November 2022.

In your request you seek access to the following:

“A recent foi released documents referring to numerous seconded external law firm employees working embedded in the OAIC. These are law firms also working as representatives for agencies and organisations that are respondents in matters before the OAIC.

I request copy of any document that refers to how such conflicts of interest are managed.

I also request copy of a document listing cost of expenditure of external legal services (including the cost of seconding of external lawyers) for the financial years 2012-2022, by financial year.

I also request a list of external legal firms who have had seconded their employees to the OAIC, by number of employees seconded, in FY2021-2022 and FY2020-2021.”

Decision on 4 January 2023

I am an officer authorised under s 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

In my decision sent to you on 4 January 2023, I identified 3 documents within scope of your request. As stated in my decision, I formed the view that 2 documents should be released in full, and 1 document should be released in part. However, because an

affected third party was consulted in the making of this decision and objected to release of the material contained within 1 document, I was required, under sections 27 and 27A of the FOI Act, to advise them of my decision and provide them with an opportunity to seek:

- Internal review of my decision; or
- Review of my decision by the Information Commissioner.

The third party had 30 days from the date they were notified of my decision (4 January 2023) in which to seek review. As a result, the document which the third party had objected to could not be released to you until this time (3 February 2023) had expired, or until any internal review or appeal has completed and my decision to release the document was upheld or confirmed.

Release of the document

I can confirm that 30 days has lapsed since the affected third party was notified of my decision. The affected third party has not sought internal or Information Commissioner review.

Accordingly, please find the document for release attached to this letter, with redactions applied in accordance with my decision of 4 January 2023.

Yours sincerely

Molly Cooke
Lawyer

6 February 2023