



Australian Government

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT
BARTON

FOI

FOI/2015/041

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982

REQUEST BY: Culley Palmer

DECISION BY: Steve McFarlane
Assistant Secretary
Defence Branch

FOI request

In an email dated 22 February 2015 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ('the Department'), the applicant made a request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), in the following terms:

The documents I seek are talking points prepared for the Prime Minister on Australia's participation in the Wideband Global SATCOM (WGS) Network.

I wish to exclude duplicate documents and drafts.

I request that all costs for all aspects of the processing of this request be waived on the grounds that the release of this information is in the public interest.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make this decision in accordance with arrangements approved by the Department's Secretary under section 23 of the FOI Act.

Decision

I have decided to refuse the request under subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act. My reasons for decision are set out below.

Reasons for decision

Subsection 24A(1) of the FOI Act provides that:

An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:

- (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document;
- and
- (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:

- (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or
- (ii) does not exist.

Having regard to my knowledge of where documents potentially relevant to the applicant's request would be held, if they existed, I arranged for the following searches to be undertaken:

- the Department's file management system was searched for potentially relevant files.
- email accounts were searched for potentially relevant emails; and
- the Department's ministerial correspondence management system was searched for any relevant correspondence or brief.

As a result of these searches, no relevant documents were found in the Department.

I am satisfied that all reasonable steps have been taken to identify documents relevant to the applicant's request and that no documents relevant to the request are in the possession of the Department. I have therefore decided to refuse the request under subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Processing and access charges

I have decided not to impose processing charges in respect of the applicant's request.

Review and complaint rights

Information about the applicant's rights of review and complaint are attached.



Steve McFarlane
Assistant Secretary
Defence Branch

13 March 2015