



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Our ref: FOI23/093; CM23/2845

3 March 2023

Stephen

By email: foi+request-9892-a4d03235@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Stephen

Freedom of Information Request FOI22/093 – Decision letter

The purpose of this letter is to give you a decision about your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) which you submitted to the Attorney-General's Department (the department).

Your request

On 3 February 2023, you requested access to:

the report provided by the Commonwealth Ombudsman to the OLSC under paragraph 11.1(da) of the Legal Services Directions 2017 (Cth) about the legal services expenditure and legal work of the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, particularly because there is no publicly accessible record of the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman's legal services expenditures on the website of the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman for the 2021-2022 financial year.

On 16 February 2023, the department acknowledged your request.

A decision in relation to your request is due on 6 March 2022.

My decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to freedom of information requests made to the department.

I have identified 1 document that falls within the scope of your request. I did this by making inquiries of staff likely to be able to identify relevant documents and arranging for comprehensive searches of relevant departmental electronic and hard copy holdings.

In making my decision regarding access to the relevant documents, I have taken the following material into account:

- the terms of your request
- the content of the documents identified as within scope of your request
- the provisions of the FOI Act
- the Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

I have decided to grant access in full to the 1 document you have requested.

Additional information

Your review rights under the FOI Act are set out at **Attachment A** to this letter.

The schedule of documents at **Attachment B** sets out brief information about each document within the scope of your request and my decision in relation to access to each of those documents.

The documents to which I have decided to grant access under the FOI Act are at **Attachment C**.

Questions about this decision

If you wish to discuss this decision, the FOI case officer for this matter is Sam, who can be reached on (02) 6141 6666 or by email to foi@ag.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Johnson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael Johnson
Assistant Secretary
Office of Legal Services Coordination

Attachments

Attachment A: Review rights
Attachment B: Schedule of documents
Attachment C: Documents



Attachment A - FOI Review rights

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the Attorney-General's Department (the department), you may apply for internal review or Information Commissioner review of the decision.

The department encourages applicants to consider seeking internal review as a first step as it may provide a more rapid resolution of your concerns.

Internal review

Under section 54 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), applications for internal review must be made in writing within 30 days of the date of the decision letter, and be lodged in one of the following ways:

email: foi@ag.gov.au

post: Freedom of Information and Privacy Section
Strategy and Governance Branch
Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit BARTON ACT 2600

An officer of the department other than the officer who made the original decision will complete the internal review within 30 days of receipt of your request.

Providing reasons you believe internal review of the decision is necessary will facilitate the completion of the internal review.

Information Commissioner review

Under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Australian Information Commissioner to review my decision. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made in writing within 60 days of the date of the decision letter, and be lodged in one of the following ways:

online: https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=ICR_10

email: foidr@oaic.gov.au

post: GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001

More information about Information Commissioner review is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner website at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Attachment B - Schedule of documents - Freedom of Information Request FOI23/093



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Document no.	Date	No. pages	Description	Access decision	Exemption/s applied
1	1 September 2022	22	Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman 2021-22 Legal Services Expenditure Report.	Grant access in full	