



OFFICIAL

Freedom of Information (FOI) request

Notice of Decision

Reference: FOI/2023/064

Mr Welton

By email: foi+request-9996-8184957f@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Welton

I refer to your request of 27 February 2023 to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department), for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

Scope of request

You have requested access to a transcript of a cyber-security meeting held on 27 February 2023 'to ascertain if the Australian government are using my Intellectual property Consequia?'

Your correspondence of 27 February 2023 is set out at Attachment A.

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.

Material taken into account

In reaching my decision I have had regard to the following:

- the terms of your request
- searches undertaken by the Department

- the FOI Act
- the Guidelines issued by the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the Guidelines).

Decision

I have decided to refuse your request under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act, on the grounds that the Department has taken all reasonable steps to locate the documents you have requested, and those documents do not exist.

Reason for decision

My findings of fact and reasons for deciding to refuse your request for access are set out below.

1. Documents cannot be found or do not exist

Section 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.

In determining what the FOI Act means with respect to 'all reasonable steps', I have had regard to the Guidelines which discuss the meaning of 'reasonable' in section 24A(1)(a). It is not designed to go beyond the limit assigned by reason, not to be extravagant or excessive, rather to be moderate and of such an effort to be appropriate or suitable to the circumstances¹.

Searches were undertaken by the Department's Cyber Security Policy Team of its email and record repositories. However, no documents were identified or located as a result of the Department's searches.

Based on my knowledge of the subject matter connected to your FOI request, and in my role as First Assistant Secretary of National Security Division, I am satisfied that the material you seek is not held by the Department.

I am therefore satisfied that the measures taken by the Department to locate documents in response to your request under the FOI Act, as outline above, are appropriate and suitable given the

¹ Paragraph 3.88 of the Guidelines

circumstances. After taking all reasonable steps to find the documents, no documents relevant to your request have been identified.

Accordingly, I am refusing your request for access under section 24A(1) of the FOI Act as documents do not exist.

Other matters

As has been explained above, the Department does not hold the document you seek. However, you can access a [Media Release](#)² and [Transcript of opening remarks](#)³ concerning the Cyber Security Roundtable on the Prime Minister's website.

Given the subject matter of your request, you may wish to consider the [Public Discussion Paper for the Cyber Security Strategy](#)⁴ available on the Department of Home Affairs website. Submissions to inform Government's considerations on cyber security policy out to 2030 can be lodged by [15 April 2023](#)⁵.

In addition, you may also wish to contact the [Digital Transformation Agency](#)⁶ for information on the Australian Government's ICT needs and opportunities for suppliers.

Review rights

If you disagree with my decision, you may apply for internal review or Information Commissioner review of the decision.

Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply in writing to the Department for an internal review of my decision. The internal review application must be made within 30 days after the date of this letter, please attach the reasons why you disagree with the decision.

Applications for review should be sent to foi@pmc.gov.au.

² <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/prime-ministers-cyber-security-roundtable>

³ <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/opening-remarks-cyber-security-roundtable>

⁴ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/submissions-and-discussion-papers/2023-2030-australian-cyber-security-strategy-discussion-paper>

⁵ <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/reports-and-publications/submissions-and-discussion-papers/2023-2030-australian-cyber-security-strategy-discussion-paper/cyber-security-strategy-discussion-form>

⁶ <https://www.dta.gov.au/contact-us>

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 after the date of this letter.

More information about Information Commissioner review is available [here](#).⁷

FOI Complaints

If you are unhappy with the way we have handled your FOI request, please let us know what we could have done better. We may be able to rectify the problem. If you are not satisfied with our response, you can make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be made in writing. More information about complaints is available [here](#).⁸

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your requests, you can contact the FOI Section by email at foi@pmc.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Lachlan Colquhoun
First Assistant Secretary
National Security Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

28 March 2023

⁷ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review>

⁸ <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint>

Attachment A

Freedom of Information request - Consequia - re cyber security meeting 27/02/2023

Re: Your cyber security meeting today.

My name is Russell White and Consequia is an undeveloped technology that will revolutionise how we access technologies.

Consequia is an idea before its time, only now are you looking at my IP as a viable option. How do we connect the enterprises?

Consequia is a two part system:

First it needs to be the only approved profiles (100 points of id etc) system as a social network. This then allows for enterprise security functionality for verified profiles.

So it is the first Social Enterprise Security system proposed. Only recently big tech is moving to verified profiles, but they will always have scams and bots.

Consequia will be developed for the purpose of social engineering factors, which means it is an advanced system of systems for the purposes of connecting any enterprises and their technology, with all profiles verified.

This will create a technology ecosystem where access to information is beyond the capabilities of now.

My IP is unique and I believe the system you are just about to create is Consequia.

So why don't we move past these sanctions and only talk about Consequia?

Please liaise with the Federal Attorney General about my situation and IP Consequia.

Can I have a copy of the transcript of this meeting, to ascertain if the Australian government are using my Intellectual property Consequia?

For your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Welton