

s47F

s22

From: FOI
 To: s47F
 Cc: FOI
 Subject: s47F : SECTION 24AB NOTICE

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 6 November 2018 in which you made a request to the Prime Minister's Office (the Office) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) in the following terms:

s47F

While the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is responsible for the processing of your request, the Department provides administrative support in that process. I am therefore responding to you on the PMO's behalf.

In that capacity, I should point out at the outset that Ministers and agencies can only process requests for documents in their possession. If you want access to documents held by other Ministers or agencies you will have to lodge separate requests with them.

Refusal of large requests

The Act provides that a Minister can refuse an FOI request if the processing of the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a Minister can refuse a request in this manner, the Minister is required by section 24AB of the Act to give the applicant a notice advising of his or her intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising the request to reduce its scope.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that the decision-maker authorised to handle this request on the Prime Minister's behalf is of the view that the work involved in processing it, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. On this basis, the decision maker intends, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the Act on the above ground. The reasons for the decision-maker reaching this view are set out below.

The decision-maker is of the view that there are hundreds of documents held by the PMO which would potentially come within the scope of your request. The location, identification and examination of those documents would be an extremely time consuming task. After that had been done, all documents within scope would then have to be individually examined by the decision-maker and his advisers in order to determine if they should be released – another extremely time consuming task. Third parties may then need

to be consulted, redactions to the documents may need to be made and a decision letter would need to be drafted.

By a conservative estimate, the whole process could take over 100 hours to complete. The decision-maker is therefore of the view that this would require the diversion of a number of staff from their normal duties to assist in the processing of the request – resulting in a substantial and unreasonable interference with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

Chance to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB, I am therefore notifying you of the decision-maker's intention to refuse your request and inviting you to consider revising or modifying it.

You are welcome to contact me on 62716206 to discuss how the request may be revised or modified.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- withdraw the request;
- make a revised request; or
- indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

If you do not do one of the above within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Calculation of 30 day period

Please note that the time taken to consult with you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of calculating the 30 day period during which the Department is required to take all reasonable steps to process your request.

Regards

s22

Adviser
FOI & Privacy Section
Legal Policy Branch | Government Division
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

s22

s22 | foi@pmc.gov.au | www.dpmc.gov.au
PO BOX 6500 CANBERRA ACT 2600

From: s47F

Sent: Tuesday, 6 November 2018 3:26 PM

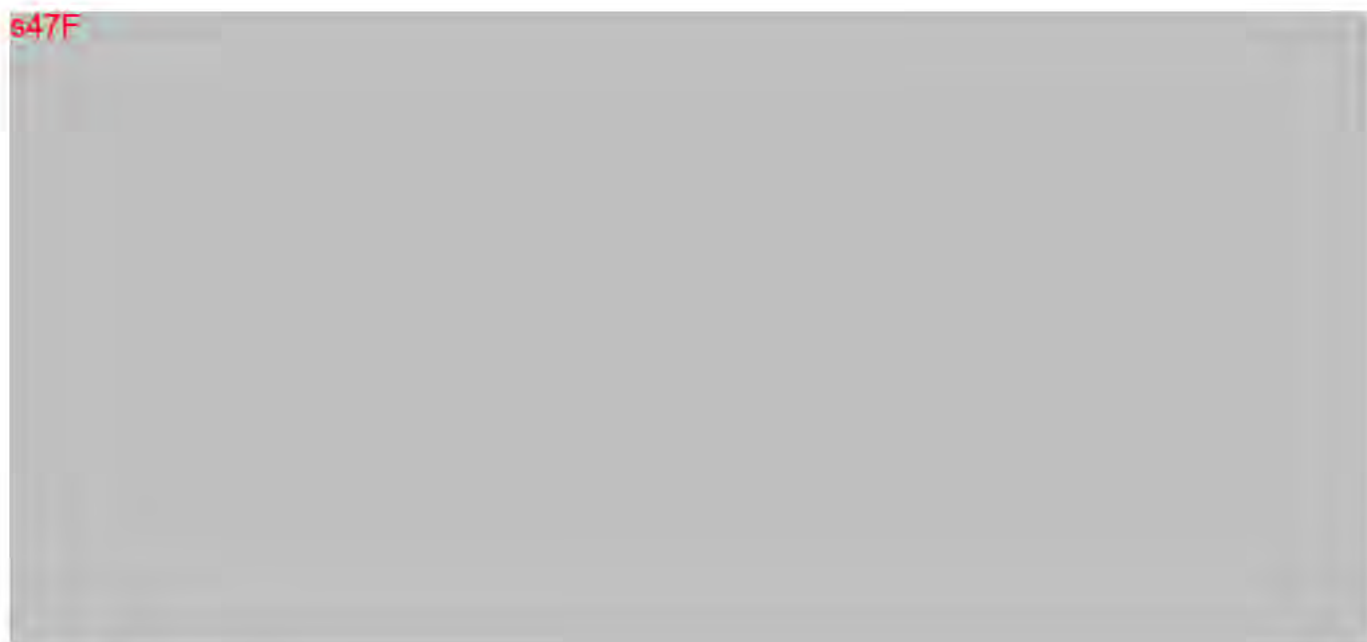
To: FOI <FOI@pmc.gov.au>

s47F

To whom it may concern,

s47F

s47F



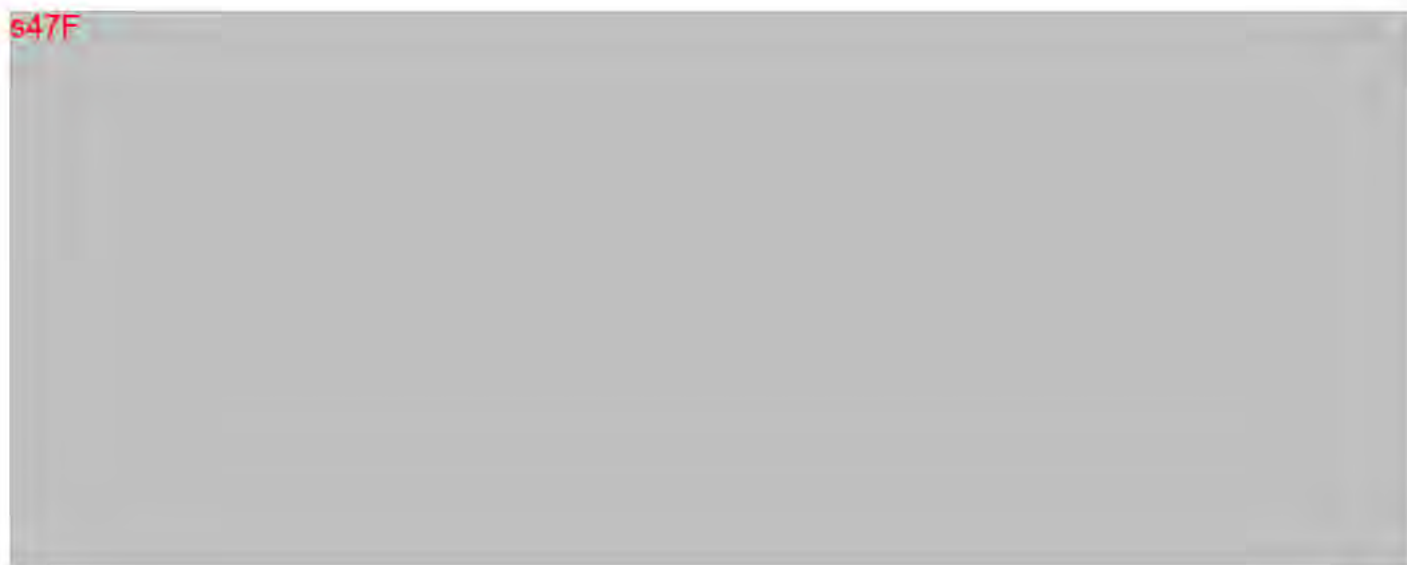
Sincerely,

s47F



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s47F





OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 11 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

s47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

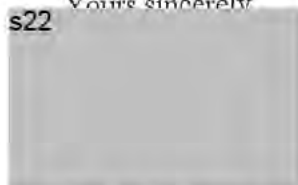
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

s22

Yours sincerely



Senior Adviser

24, October 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 11 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

On 29 October 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (**PRCN**) to advise that because of the extremely broad scope of your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 12 November 2019. To date, I have not received a response from you.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that the time that could be spent in potentially processing your request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours, due to its extremely broad scope. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

29 November 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

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Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 11 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

s47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

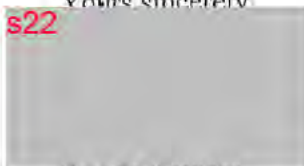
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

29 October 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 11 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

On 29 October 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (**PRCN**) to advise that because of the extremely broad scope of your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 12 November 2019. To date, I have not received a response from you.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that the time that could be spent in potentially processing your request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours, due to its extremely broad scope. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

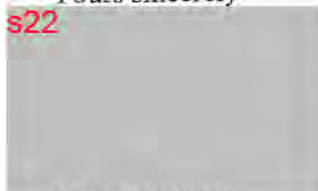
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

29 November 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 15 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

s47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

29 October 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your email of 15 April 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

S47F

On 16 April 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am an authorised decision-maker on the Prime Minister's behalf for your request.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

On 29 October 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (**PRCN**) to advise that because of the extremely broad scope of your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

You responded to the PRCN on 11 November 2019. However, you did not revise the scope of your request.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that the time that could be spent in potentially processing your request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours, due to its extremely broad scope. As you did not revise the terms of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

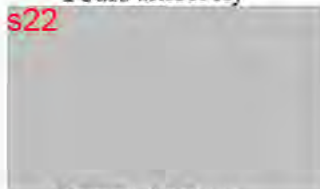
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

31. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your email of 20 May 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

s47F

On 30 May 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited;
- reducing the number of different types of documents you have requested;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

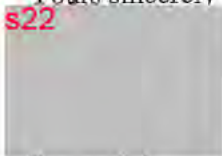
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

29. October 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 20 May 2019, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 29 October 2019, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to its extremely broad scope.

On 30 March 2020, the Department wrote to you on behalf of the Office to advise that you have been granted until 3 April 2020 to provide a revised request. In that same correspondence, you were also referred to the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice for suggestions on how to revise the scope of your request. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

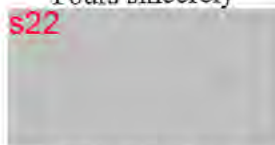
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

14. April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your email of 5 June 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the Department) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

S47F

On 14 June 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the PMO would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am the authorised decision-maker at PMO for your request.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited;
- reducing the number of different types of documents you have requested;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
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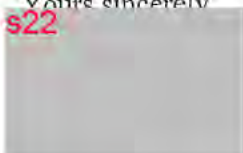
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

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Senior Adviser

29. October 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 5 June 2019, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 29 October 2019, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to its extremely broad scope.

On 30 March 2020, the Department wrote to you on behalf of the Office to advise that you have been granted until 3 April 2020 to provide a revised request. In that same correspondence, you were also referred to the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice for suggestions on how to revise the scope of your request. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

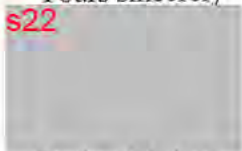
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

14. April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 12 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined and cover an extensive timeframe. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

13 March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear

s47F

I refer to your request, dated 12 September 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

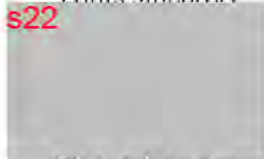
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

6 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 23 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of the expansive categories of documents being sought. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the mobile devices of all staff within the office for any relevant documents that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and a number of consultations with third parties.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's and his Office's functions.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe,
- limiting your request to a particular documents.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

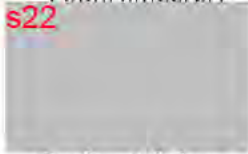
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

31 January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 23 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 31 January 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

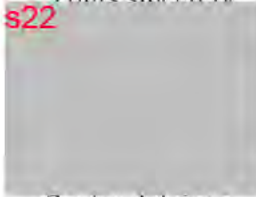
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

13. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 20 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe (covering a period of over one year, namely s47F [REDACTED]). Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

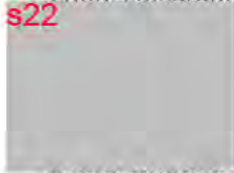
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely,

s22



Senior Adviser

28. December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request of 20 September 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

On 23 December 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (PRCN) to advise that, because of the broad timeframe of your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

On 2 January 2020, you advised in writing that:

s47F

As you indicated that you did not wish to revise or withdraw your request, I am required to provide you with a decision based on the current terms of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. As you advised that you did not wish to revise the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 23 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and expansive categories of documents. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

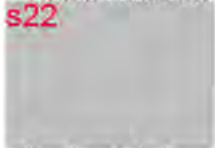
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

23. December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 23 September 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

On 24 December 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (PRCN) to advise that, because of the broad timeframe and expansive categories of documents sought under your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 7 January 2020. To date, I have not received a response from you.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

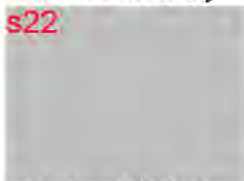
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 25 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and the expansive categories of documents being sought. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

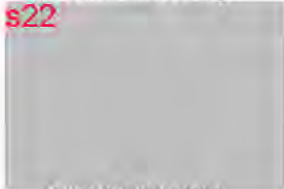
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

23 December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 25 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

On 24 December 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (PRCN) to advise that, because of the broad timeframe and expansive categories of documents being sought under your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 7 January 2020. To date, I have not received a response from you.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 26 September 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and the expansive categories of documents being sought. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

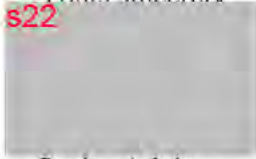
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

23. December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request, dated 26 September 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act), for access to the following:

s47F

On 24 December 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (PRCN) to advise that, because of the broad timeframe and expansive categories of documents being sought under request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 7 January 2020. To date, I have not received a response from you.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

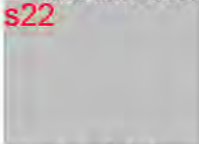
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 1 October 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe S47F
S47F. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

22. December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 1 October 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

On 24 December 2019, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice (PRCN) to advise that, because of the broad timeframe of your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

Your response to the PRCN was due by 7 January 2020. To date, I have not received a response from you.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the PRCN, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

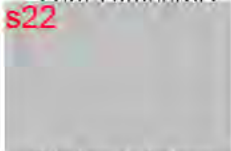
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 11 October 2019 made to the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe ^{S47F}
^{S47F} Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the Prime Minister's phone for any text messages that might fall within the scope of your request, followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would involve close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's phone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of staff within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited,
- limiting your request to a particular aspect of the drought envoy's role.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

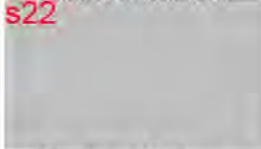
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

23, December 2019



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 12 September 2019, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 23 December 2019, I considered that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly because of its broad timeframe.

On 3 January 2020, you replied that you wished to revise your request as follows:

s47F



I have considered your request (as revised) and am not satisfied that the practical refusal reason has been removed. I am of the view that it is still broadly defined, covers a broad timeframe, and the categories of documents being sought remain expansive. This is mainly because it is unclear what particular documents you are requesting to access. For example, your revised request refers to s47F



Accordingly, it is likely that the work involved in processing your revised request would still substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. It is considered that, among other things, a large number of material would need to be examined and many consultations would likely be necessary.

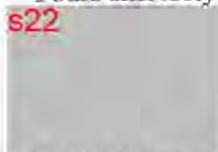
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 1 October 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

S47F

On 3 October 2019, the Department received clarification of the terms of your request as follows:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined. Further, your request covers a wide range of the types of documents. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

13, March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 1 October 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

On 3 October 2019, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet received clarification of the terms of your request as follows:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

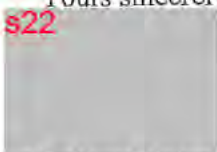
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

6 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 15 October 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and the expansive categories of documents being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents will be within the scope of your request, should any exist, are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues, if documents that were to be identified within scope of the request, should any exist, were not carefully assessed.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting the type of documents in the scope of your request.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

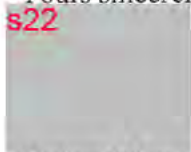
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 15 October 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

On 17 January 2020, in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, I issued you a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice advising that, because of the broad timeframe and the expansive categories of documents being sought under your request, it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were processed. In that correspondence, I invited you to consider revising your request and suggested ways that you could revise your request.

You responded to the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice on 21 January 2020, indicating:

s47F



As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice, the Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. I have considered your proposed revision to the scope and remain satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing your request would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion with the performance of the Minister's functions.

I remain satisfied that processing your revised request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

On this basis, I am satisfied that processing your request, as revised, would significantly and unreasonably interfere with support that staff within the Office of the Prime Minister could be providing to the Prime Minister in the performance of his functions.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

\\• March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

s47F

I refer to your request dated 14 October 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extended timeframe of over two years, including a period of time prior to the Prime Minister being in office, and the expansive categories of documents and other material being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's and his Office's functions.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe,
- limiting your request to a particular document types.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

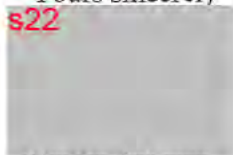
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

31. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear

s47F

I refer to your request, dated 14 October 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 31 January 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions, due to its broad timeframe. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

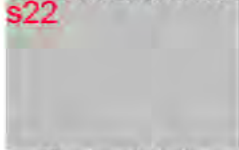
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

\\, March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request, dated 25 October 2019 and submitted by Mr Tomasz Skladzien on your behalf, made to the Prime Minister's Office, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined. Further, your request covers a wide range of the types of documents. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request for documents to a particular aspect of the subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22

Senior Adviser

13. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request, dated 25 October 2019 and submitted by Mr Tomasz Skladzien on your behalf, made to the Prime Minister's Office, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22

Senior Adviser

6 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 4 November 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad scope covering multiple subjects and the vague and expansive categories of documents being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents will be within the scope of your request, should any exist, are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues, if documents that were to be identified within scope of the request, should any exist, were not carefully assessed.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 12 November 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined. Further, your request covers a wide range of the types of documents. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request for documents to a particular aspect of the subject matter, organisation or person.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

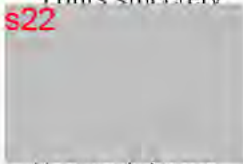
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

13. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 12 November 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the Decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

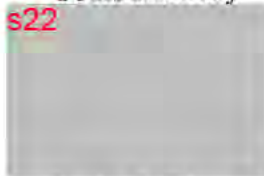
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

6 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear

s47F

I refer to your request dated 12 November 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined and cover an extensive timeframe. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular aspect of the subject matter, organisation or person (and if so, which particular aspect, organisation or person).

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22

Senior Adviser

13 March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 12 November 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

6 . April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your email of 18 November 2019, received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (the **Department**) on the same day and addressed to the Prime Minister's Office, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

S47F

On 21 November 2019, the Department acknowledged receipt of your request and confirmed that the Prime Minister's Office would handle the processing of your request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its extremely broad scope. The specified timeframe in your request is also considerable. It is considered that, among other things, a large number of files would need to be examined and many consultations would likely be necessary.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's and his Office's functions.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter relating to the identified individual.

Further, please note that the Prime Minister's Office would unlikely hold documents you are seeking that are dated prior to 24 August 2018. You may wish to take this into account when considering the revision of your request.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely
s22

Senior Adviser

31. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 18 November 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 31 January 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions, due to its broad timeframe and scope. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

\\ • March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 25 November 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad scope covering multiple subjects and the vague and expansive categories of documents being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

13. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 25 November 2019, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

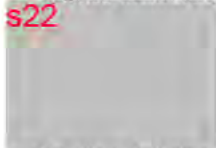
As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 13 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22


Senior Adviser

17 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 2 December 2019, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision-maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. This is mainly because of its broad scope and the absence of a specific timeframe for the documents you are seeking to access.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- limiting your request to a particular type of document;
- specifying a timeframe for the documents you are seeking to access.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

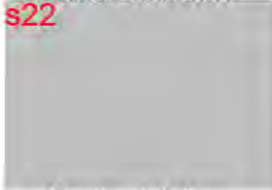
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 30 December 2019 and made to the Prime Minister's Office, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad scope covering a time period of over 12 months, multiple subject references and the expansive categories of documents being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's and his Office's functions.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

31. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

S47F

S47F

Dear S47F

I refer to your request dated 30 December 2019 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

S47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act. I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 31 January 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions, due to its broad timeframe and scope. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

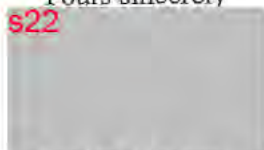
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review under the FOI Act is available at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

\\ • March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

S47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 13 January 2020 and made to the Prime Minister's Office, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad scope covering multiple subjects, various third parties and the expansive categories of documents being sought.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe;
- limiting your request to a specific type of communication.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request;
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it; or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

31. January 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 13 January 2020, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

On 31 January 2020, you were issued a Practical Refusal Consultation Notice which advised that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to its broad scope covering multiple subjects, various third parties and the expansive categories of documents being sought.

On 5 February 2020, you provided the following proposed revision to the scope of your request:

s47F



On 12 February 2020, you wrote to enquire whether your proposed revision sufficiently narrowed the scope of your request.

On 30 March 2020, the Department wrote to you on behalf of the Office to advise that you have been granted until 3 April 2020 to provide a revised request. In that same correspondence, you were also referred to the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice for assistance on how the scope of your request may be refined. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

I have also considered your proposed revision sent on 5 February 2020 and do not consider that it would remove the practical refusal reason. I am of the view that it is still broadly defined and the categories of documents being sought remain expansive, and therefore it would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions if it were to be processed.

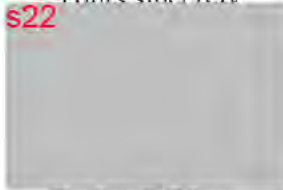
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

14. April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 20 January 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Refusal of large requests

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the email accounts of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. The subject matter of the documents you are seeking (if they exist) is also broadly defined. It is considered that, among other things, a large amount of material would need to be examined and likely a number of consultations would be necessary.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which messages will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular aspect of the subject matter, organisation, or person (and if so, which particular aspect, organisation, or person).

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

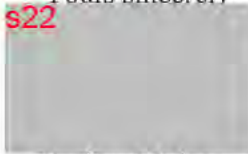
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

(0. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 20 January 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**) for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 10 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms and timeframe of your request. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

30 . March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 22 January 2020, made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(b) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the request does not satisfy the requirement in paragraph 15(2)(b) (identification of documents).

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

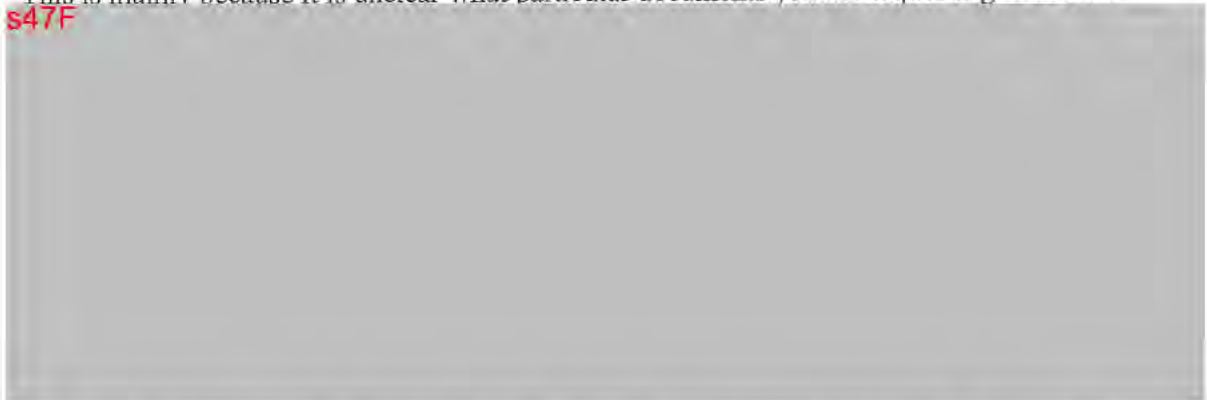
However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because it is unclear what particular documents you are requesting to access.

s47F



Accordingly, it is likely that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. It is considered that, among other things, a large number of material would need to be examined and many consultations would likely be necessary. I am satisfied that the time that could be spent in potentially processing the request would be substantially in excess of 50 hours.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- specifying the timeframe for the documents you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation, or person (and if so, which particular subject matter, organisation, or person).

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

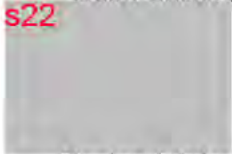
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

17 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 31 January 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is because the terms of your request are broadly defined. Further, your request covers a wide range of the types of documents. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files and electronic communication accounts, of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- specifying the type of document you are seeking;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation, or person (and if so, which particular subject matter, organisation, or person).

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

10 March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 31 January 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), for access to the following:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Decision

I am satisfied that, following the request consultation process, the practical refusal reason still exists in relation to your request. Therefore, under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

My reasons for refusing the request are below.

Reasons for decision

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision-maker is satisfied that:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- after undertaking a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act, the practical refusal reason remains.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

Section 24AB of the FOI Act sets out the practical refusal consultation process for the purposes of section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am satisfied that the practical refusal consultation process that was undertaken in relation to your request, meets the requirements set out in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

As indicated in the Practical Refusal Consultation Notice issued to you on 10 March 2020, I consider that processing your request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, mainly due to the broadly defined terms of your request and the expansive categories of documents being sought. As I did not receive a response from you revising the scope of your request, the practical refusal reason remains.

Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

Review rights

Information about your rights of review can be found on the website of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

30 March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 11 February 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and the expansive categories of documents being sought. Processing your request would involve, among other things, an extensive examination of the files, electronic communication accounts, and phones, of the Prime Minister and his staff, for any document that might fall within the scope of your request. This would be followed by retrieval, and likely a number of consultations with third parties. Given your request would include close examination and inspection of the Prime Minister's emails and telephone, these tasks could only be undertaken by a very small number of persons within the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- Reducing the timeframe you have cited;
- limiting your request for documents on a particular subject matter, organisation, or person (and if so, which particular subject matter, organisation, or person).

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

10 · March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 28 February 2020, and submitted by Ms Katrina Wotton on your behalf, to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. This is mainly because of its broad timeframe and scope, covering all types of documents held by the Office, if any exist.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, determinations on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

30. March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request dated 27 February 2020 made to the Prime Minister's Office, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. This is mainly because of its broad scope covering 'all correspondence' between

the Prime Minister and South Australian Premier the Hon Steven Marshall MP as well as its broad timeframe.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken in to account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, determinations on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example, limiting your request to a specific subject.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

30 · March 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear

s47F

I refer to your request, dated 11 March 2020, and made to the Office of the Prime Minister under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

On 20 March 2020, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet contacted you on behalf of the Office to advise that your request would likely encompass a wide range of documents and invited you to revise your scope. In that discussion, you indicated that you would be happy to exclude media clippings and media monitoring emails, and that you would consider any further revision and respond.

The Department advised that they have not received any further revision of scope from you in relation to this request.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision-maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions. This is mainly because of its broad scope covering multiple subjects and timeframe.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, determinations on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the other responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

In accordance with the requirements of section 24AB of the FOI Act, I am therefore notifying you of my intention to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act and inviting you to consider revising your request by, for example:

- reducing the timeframe you have cited;
- limiting your request to a particular type of document.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

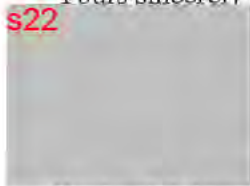
If you were to revise your FOI request in a way that removes the practical refusal reason, then the processing period will recommence. If you do not do one of the above within the next 14 days, your FOI request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

14 April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

Dear s47F

I refer to your request, dated 23 March 2020, made to the Prime Minister's Office under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**), in the following terms:

s47F

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised to make a decision in this matter on the Prime Minister's behalf.

Practical refusal reasons

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that a request to a Minister may be refused if the decision maker is satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister's functions.

However, before a request can be refused in this manner, the FOI Act provides that the applicant must be provided with a notice advising of the decision maker's intention to refuse the request and inviting the applicant to consider revising it to make it more manageable.

Notice of intention to refuse your request

This letter is to advise you that I am of the view that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions.

This is mainly because of its broad scope covering multiple subjects, an expansive range of document categories, and a broad timeframe.

The Prime Minister is the head of the national government and your request presents a significant challenge to the day-to-day execution of his duties. Should your request be processed, there are several considerations that will need to be taken into account.

Firstly, the work of both the Prime Minister and his staff will be delayed and there are likely to be many unmet demands on their time. Secondly, decisions being made on which documents (if any exist) will be within the scope of your request are likely to be time consuming. Thirdly, there is a risk of inappropriate or inadvertent disclosure of sensitive information about the Prime Minister's activities, discussions or meetings, with any of a large range of people or on a large range of issues.

As a result and to adequately avoid these risks, processing your request would require dedicated resources and a significant allocation of time, which would need to be balanced with national issues that the Prime Minister and his staff deal with on a daily basis.

I consider that processing your request, in its current terms, would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Prime Minister's functions, considering the responsibilities of the Prime Minister and demands on his time, and that of his Office.

Therefore, I intend, at this stage, to refuse your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

Opportunity to modify request

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- limiting your request to a particular type of document.

Actions required

Section 24AB of the FOI Act provides that you must do one of the following, in writing, within the next 14 days:

- revise your request,
- indicate that you do not wish to revise it, or
- withdraw the request.

If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms of your request.

No guarantee of access

Please note that even if you revise your request and it is able to be processed, there is still no guarantee that any relevant documents (if such documents exist) will be released. That is a matter for my decision, in the usual manner. The issue we are addressing at the moment is whether the request is able to be processed, not what the eventual outcome may be if it were processed.

Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

8. April 2020



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

s47F

s47F

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Yours sincerely

s22



Senior Adviser

3 · April 2020