

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:

I request all documents held by the prime minister's office, all other cabinet ministers' offices and by government which refer or pertain to Virgin Australia's and Prime Minister Scott Morrison announcement made on November 4 that Defence Force veterans would be given priority boarding on all Virgin flights.

The search range for this request is from between September 1, 2018 and November 6, 2018.

The documents requested include but are not limited to emails, text messages, letters, other correspondence and ministerial briefing documents and daily talking points.'

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

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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>

Subject: FOI request: Virgin Australia announcement

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to request access to documents under section 11C of the Freedom of Information Act 1982.

I request all documents held by the prime minister's office, all other cabinet ministers' offices and by government which refer or pertain to Virgin Australia's and Prime Minister Scott Morrison announcement made on November 4 that Defence Force veterans would be given priority boarding on all Virgin flights.

The search range for this request is from between September 1, 2018 and November 6, 2018.

The documents requested include but are not limited to emails, text messages, letters, other correspondence and ministerial briefing documents and daily talking points.

The search terms should include, without being limited too:

- "Virgin Australia"
- "Virgin"
- "John Borghetti"
- "#thanksforserving"
- "thanks for serving"
- "priority boarding"
- "boarding"
- veterans

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:

- The Minister's schedule, calendar and or diary of appointments between 1 March 2019 and 11 April 2019, containing the times, location, attendees and purpose of all scheduled and actual appointments.

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
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:

Under the Freedom of Information Act I request the following documents form the Office of the Prime Minister.

- The Minister's schedule, calendar and or diary of appointments between 1 March 2019 and 11 April 2019, containing the times, location, attendees and purpose of all scheduled and actual appointments.

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 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:

- *All documents created, received or sent between 1 March 2019 and 11 April 2019 that refer to any of the following:*

- *Adani,*
- *Carmichael coal mine project,*
- *"groundwater" or "ground water",*
- *Lucas Dow,*

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:

- All documents created, received or sent between 1 March 2019 and 11 April 2019 that refer to any of the following:

- *Adani,*
- *Carmichael coal mine project,*
- *"groundwater" or "ground water",*
- *Lucas Dow,*

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:

1. *All correspondence, including emails or text messages, between the Prime Minister and/or his office and Adani and/or Adani lobbyists in relation to the Adani Carmichael coal project in 2019.*
2. *All briefing notes, reports, diary notes, records of meetings, records of phone calls, file notes or memos relating to any interactions between the Prime Minister and/or his office and Adani and/or Adani lobbyists in 2019.*

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 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:

1. *All correspondence, including emails or text messages, between the Prime Minister and/or his office and Adani and/or Adani lobbyists in relation to the Adani Carmichael coal project in 2019*
2. *All briefing notes, reports, diary notes, records of meetings, records of phone calls, file notes or memos relating to any interactions between the Prime Minister and/or his office and Adani and/or Adani lobbyists in 2019.*

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:

Please note the below request applies to incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Any documents and/or correspondence including but not isolated to emails and/or SMS and/or letters and/or meeting minutes and/or diary notes detailing any communications between Waratah Coal and/or Clive Palmer and/or any representative of Clive Palmer and/or the United Australia Party and/or Queensland Nickel, and:

...

(b) The Office of the Prime Minister from the 24th of August 2018 to present;

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.

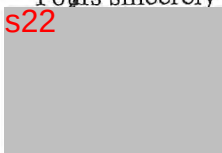
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

Please note the below request applies to incoming and outgoing correspondence.

Any documents and/or correspondence including but not isolated to emails and/or SMS and/or letters and/or meeting minutes and/or diary notes detailing any communications between Waratah Coal and/or Clive Palmer and/or any representative of Clive Palmer and/or the United Australia Party and/or Queensland Nickel, and:

...

(b) The Office of the Prime Minister from the 24th of August 2018 to present;

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:

I am seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, namely; correspondence and/or documentation including but not isolated to emails and/or briefing notes and/or meeting agendas and/or meeting minutes and/or complaints held by the Office of the Prime Minister of Australia relating to allegations of breaches of national security laws and/or secrecy laws against journalists and/or media organisations and/or media sources. The time frame for this request is the 1st of January 2017 and 5th of June 2019.

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;
- 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 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:

I am seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act 1982, namely; correspondence and/or documentation including but not isolated to emails and/or briefing notes and/or meeting agendas and/or meeting minutes and/or complaints held by the Office of the Prime Minister of Australia relating to allegations of breaches of national security laws and/or secrecy laws against journalists and/or media organisations and/or media sources. The time frame for this request is the 1st of January 2017 and 5th of June 2019.

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.

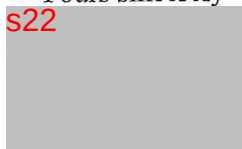
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

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:

any communication between the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Home Affairs or the Minister for Home Affairs, concerning regional processing, between May 20 2019 and September 12 2019.

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.

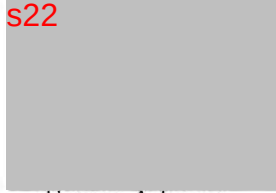
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

any communication between the Prime Minister's Office and the Department of Home Affairs or the Minister for Home Affairs, concerning regional processing, between May 20 2019 and September 12 2019.

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.

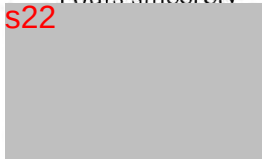
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

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:

I seek access to any correspondence, including emails, notes made of phone calls, text messages or whatsapp messages that contains mention of Sky news presenter Paul Murray and his interview with the US president Donald Trump, sent to or by any PM & C staff, or advisers within the PMO.

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.

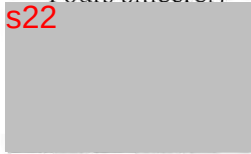
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

... any correspondence, including emails, notes made of phone calls, text messages or whatsapp messages that contains mention of Sky news presenter Paul Murray and his interview with the US president Donald Trump, sent to or by any PM & C staff, or advisers within the PMO.

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.

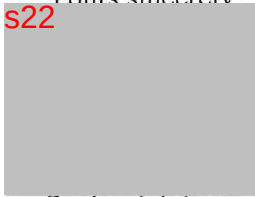
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

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:

Copies of all text messages from Barnaby Joyce MP to the Prime Minister regarding Mr Joyce's role as drought envoy (as per media reports of such communications here: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>)

The timeframe for this request is from Aug 2018 (when Mr Joyce took on the position) to the date of this 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 broad timeframe (covering a period of over one year, namely August 2018 to September 2019). 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



School 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:

Copies of all text messages from Barnaby Joyce MP to the Prime Minister regarding Mr Joyce's role as drought envoy (as per media reports of such communications here: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>)

The timeframe for this request is from Aug 2018 (when Mr Joyce took on the position) to the date of this request.

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:

I am not able to narrow my request for Barnaby Joyce's drought envoy text messages any further, and nor am I willing to withdraw the request.

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:

I seek access to any correspondence, including text messages and Whatsapp messages, between drought envoy Barnaby Joyce and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, regarding his work as drought envoy between August 27, 2018 to May 26, 2019.

The requested information is referred to in this article as multiple "written segments" that were sent via text message: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>

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.

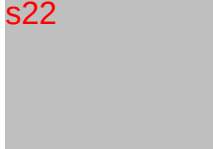
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

I seek access to any correspondence, including text messages and Whatsapp messages, between drought envoy Barnaby Joyce and Prime Minister Scott Morrison, regarding his work as drought envoy between August 27, 2018 to May 26, 2019.

The requested information is referred to in this article as multiple "written segments" that were sent via text message: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>

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:

I write seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act, specifically all correspondence, including text messages and instant messages, between Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce relating to the latter's work as Drought Envoy.

I advise that I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released, or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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:

I write seeking information under the Freedom of Information Act, specifically all correspondence, including text messages and instant messages, between Prime Minister Scott Morrison and Barnaby Joyce relating to the latter's work as Drought Envoy.

I advise that I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released, or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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:

I request under FOI Act all correspondence by sent by messaging service (SMS, Signal, WhatsApp, or other messaging application) between the Member for New England in his capacity as Drought Envoy and the Prime Minister, where that correspondence relates to activities of the Drought Envoy and his office.

I note the Drought Envoy states these were official reports in his role.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>

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:

I request under FOI Act all correspondence by sent by messaging service (SMS, Signal, WhatsApp, or other messaging application) between the Member for New England in his capacity as Drought Envoy and the Prime Minister, where that correspondence relates to activities of the Drought Envoy and his office.

I note the Drought Envoy states these were official reports in his role.
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-20/barnaby-joyce-responds-drought-envoy-reports/11533878>

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:

I am seeking access to documents containing information relating to the Federal's Government Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Drought Taskforce.

Specifically, I am seeking information about:

- a. *Text messages between Barnaby Joyce, in his role as the Special Envoy for Drought Assistance, and the Prime Minister between July 2018 and September 2019.*

....

Please be advised that the most recent document summarising any of the issues or updating on these issues sought by this request (i.e. a-e) could fulfil the scope of this request.

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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 more than a year from July 2018 to September 2019). 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:

I am seeking access to documents containing information relating to the Federal's Government Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Drought Taskforce.

Specifically, I am seeking information about:

- a. Text messages between Barnaby Joyce, in his role as the Special Envoy for Drought Assistance, and the Prime Minister between July 2018 and September 2019.*

....

Please be advised that the most recent document summarising any of the issues or updating on these issues sought by this request (i.e. a-e) could fulfil the scope of this request.

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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:

-All text and email communication between the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and special envoy for drought Barnaby Joyce between August 2018 and May 2019.

-Terms of reference for Barnaby Joyce's role as special envoy for drought

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 August 2018 to September 2019). 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:

All text and email communication between the Prime Minister Scott Morrison and special envoy for drought Barnaby Joyce between August 2018 and May 2019.

Terms of reference for Barnaby Joyce's role as special envoy for drought

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:

The three SMS messages sent by Barnaby Joyce to the Prime Minister Scott Morrison [sic] regarding his work as the Special Envoy for Drought

Any physical reports provided by Barnaby Joyce to Prime Minister Scott Morrison regarding his work as the Special Envoy for Drought

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 "the three SMS messages", however, it is not possible to determine to which particular SMS messages you are referring.

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:

I seek any correspondence, email or written sent to anyone in the department internally, and/or to anyone in Bureau of meteorology, the Department of Agriculture, the Prime Minister's Office, the office of the Water Minister, the office of the Agriculture Minister and/or the office of the Minister for Infrastructure (Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack) in relation to Moyne Shire and/or the Drought Communities Programme.

I seek access to correspondence dated from the 27th September to the 1st of October 2019.

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

On the first point I seek access to emails and correspondence - both within the department, within the Prime Minister's office and within the media team and correspondence received by the department, the Prime Ministers office and/or media team from outside the department.

On the second point I am referring to correspondence sent to, or received from those departments.

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.

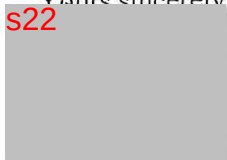
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

I seek any correspondence, email or written sent to anyone in the department internally, and/or to anyone in Bureau of meteorology, the Department of Agriculture, the Prime Minister's Office, the office of the Water Minister, the office of the Agriculture Minister and/or the office of the Minister for Infrastructure (Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack) in relation to Moyne Shire and/or the Drought Communities Programme.

I seek access to correspondence dated from the 27th September to the 1st of October 2019.

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

On the first point I seek access to emails and correspondence - both within the department, within the Prime Minister's office and within the media team and correspondence received by the department, the Prime Minister's office and/or media team from outside the department.

On the second point I am referring to correspondence sent to, or received from those departments.

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.

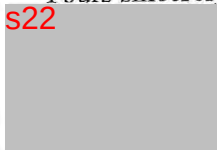
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

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:

... any documents, emails, text messages, talking points, or notes held by the office regarding the prime minister's friend Tim Stewart since September 2019, excluding communications sent to or from Guardian Australia staff.

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:

... any documents, emails, text messages, talking points, or notes held by the office regarding the prime minister's friend Tim Stewart since September 2019, excluding communications sent to or from Guardian Australia staff.

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:

'I am happy to limit it [the request] to text messages/WhatsApp messages.

It is very simple to back up a person's phone and download messages. Other departments have had no issue with this, and the time frame is limited to one month as per the time of my request (which was now four months ago). I do not consider this to be an unnecessary diversion of resources.'

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:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (Cth) I request copies of emails, cables, talking points, briefs, letters, videos, audio recordings, reports to and/or from the Prime Minister and/or his office or to and/or from PMC relating to surveillance of Julian Assange in the Ecuadorian embassy, including by US intelligence services from 1 December 2017 to date.

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:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (Cth) I request copies of emails, cables, talking points, briefs, letters, videos, audio recordings, reports to and/or from the Prime Minister and/or his office or to and/or from PMC relating to surveillance of Julian Assange in the Ecuadorian embassy, including by US intelligence services from 1 December 2017 to date.

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

11 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:

'Any documents that reference (a) travel costs incurred by the City of Sydney in 2017-18 or (b) the City of Sydney Annual Report 2017-18 or (c) claims made by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction relating to travel by the City of Sydney in 2017-18 or the City of Sydney Annual Report 2017-18, including, but not limited to:

- o talking points prepared by the Prime Minister's office and/or the Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction in the period 24-25 October 2019*
- o responses to media inquiries, including, but not limited to, email and text messages, in the period 20-25 October 2019*
- o records of communications with the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and/or his office including, but not limited to, email text messages and messages sent using encrypted messaging apps.'*

This request excludes duplicate documents.

The names of staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 that appear on documents captured by the request are not excluded from the 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

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:

'Any documents that reference (a) travel costs incurred by the City of Sydney in 2017-18 or (b) the City of Sydney Annual Report 2017-18 or (c) claims made by the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction relating to travel by the City of Sydney in 2017-18 or the City of Sydney Annual Report 2017-18, including, but not limited to:

- o talking points prepared by the Prime Minister's office and/or the Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction in the period 24-25 October 2019*
- o responses to media inquiries, including, but not limited to, email and text messages, in the period 20-25 October 2019*
- o records of communications with the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction and/or his office including, but not limited to, email text messages and messages sent using encrypted messaging apps.'*

This request excludes duplicate documents.

The names of staff employed under the Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984 that appear on documents captured by the request are not excluded from the 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 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:

Any talking points and discussion regarding the response to media reporting about Tim Stewart and QAnon, in September and October 2019.

Communications between any PMO staff and Rugby Australia or the NRL regarding the PM's water run at the PM's XIII, reported [here](#).

Communications between any PMO staff and Cricket Australia regarding the PM's water run at the PM's XI, reported [here](#).

Any briefings provided to the PM in September, October and November 2019 regarding the possible impeachment of the US President.

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:

I would like, under the FOI Act, to be provided all with documents, emails and briefing notes from within the date range 1 August 2019 to 12 November 2019 from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy to the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, or his office, which contain advice on Australia's emissions trajectory or on whether Australia is meeting and will meet its Paris emissions reduction targets. I would like to exclude duplicate documents, and also documents and reports which have already been published, from my search.

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:

I would like, under the FOI Act, to be provided all with documents, emails and briefing notes from within the date range 1 August 2019 to 12 November 2019 from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy to the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, or his office, which contain advice on Australia's emissions trajectory or on whether Australia is meeting and will meet its Paris emissions reduction targets. I would like to exclude duplicate documents, and also documents and reports which have already been published, from my search.

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:

"I would like, under the FOI Act, to be provided with all advice provided to the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, or his office, on climate change impacts expected for Australia, by the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy, Geoscience Australia or the CSIRO within the date range 1 August 2019 to 12 November 2019. I would like to exclude duplicate documents, and also documents and reports which have already been published, from my search.

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.

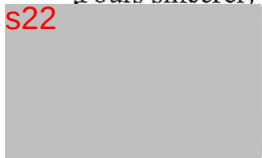
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

I would like, under the FOI Act, to be provided with all advice provided to the Prime Minister Scott Morrison, or his office, on climate change impacts expected for Australia, by the Federal Department of the Environment and Energy, Geoscience Australia, or the CSIRO within the date range 1 August 2019 to 12 November 2019. I would like to exclude duplicate documents, and also documents and reports which have already been published, from my search.

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:

I request copies of all personal information held by ... the Prime Minister's office in relation to Julian Paul Assange from 1 January 2016 to date.

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:

I request copies of all personal information held by ... the Prime Minister's office in relation to Julian Paul Assange from 1 January 2016 to date.

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:

1. *Any talking points provided or produced by the Prime Minister's Office regarding the NSW bushfires in the week starting November 10, where those talking points mention climate change or global warming.*
2. *Any communications distributed from the Prime Minister's Office to other government members regarding what the government should say if asked about climate change in relation to the bushfires, between November 9 and 17.*
3. *Any written communications or notes recording other communications between the Prime Minister's Office and the office of NZ PM Jacinda Ardern regarding the bushfires in the week starting Nov 10.*

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.

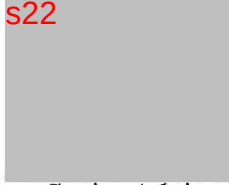
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

1. *Any talking points provided or produced by the Prime Minister's Office regarding the NSW bushfires in the week starting November 10, where those talking points mention climate change or global warming.*
2. *Any communications distributed from the Prime Minister's Office to other government members regarding what the government should say if asked about climate change in relation to the bushfires, between November 9 and 17.*
3. *Any written communications or notes recording other communications between the Prime Minister's Office and the office of NZ PM Jacinda Ardern regarding the bushfires in the week starting Nov 10.*

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.

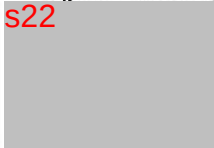
Therefore, in accordance with section 24(1) of the FOI Act, I have decided to refuse your request.

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:

Specifically I am seeking:

- *Documents detailing information about civil penalties on secondary boycotts that cause "substantial loss or damage" relevant to environmental activism including media strategy.*

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles, media statements or talking points.

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:

All documents in possession of the Prime Minister's Office that were created or received on, or after, 24 August 2018 that reference the following:

- *Hillsong;*
- *Horizon Church;*
- *Assemblies of God;*
- *Australian Christian Churches; or*
- *Pentecostal.*

NOTE: for the purpose of this request, 'documents' excludes media alerts received by employees of the Prime Minister's Office.

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:

All documents in possession of the Prime Minister's Office that were created or received on, or after, 24 August 2018 that reference the following:

- *Hillsong;*
- *Horizon Church;*
- *Assemblies of God;*
- *Australian Christian Churches; or*
- *Pentecostal.*

NOTE: for the purpose of this request, 'documents' excludes media alerts received by employees of the Prime Minister's Office.

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

11 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:

1. *Communications, including emails, and sms messages or similar to the Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian or her department or the NSW Minister for emergency management, David Elliott or his department or to the NSW Rural Fire Service commander, Shane Fitzsimmons or his headquarters offering naval vessels or other military assistance in connection with evacuations from bushfire affected areas.*
2. *Any briefing notes to the Prime Minister or his office dealing with offers made to NSW and NSW's response to the offers.*
3. *Any communications from NSW officials rejecting offers of naval vessels or military assistance offered.*

Please confine the search to 1 December 2019 to 10 January 2020.

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:

1. *Communications, including emails, and sms messages or similar to the Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian or her department or the NSW Minister for emergency management, David Elliott or his department or to the NSW Rural Fire Service commander, Shane Fitzsimmons or his headquarters offering naval vessels or other military assistance in connection with evacuations from bushfire affected areas.*
2. *Any briefing notes to the Prime Minister or his office dealing with offers made to NSW and NSW's response to the offers.*
3. *Any communications from NSW officials rejecting offers of naval vessels or military assistance offered.*

Please confine the search to 1 December 2019 to 10 January 2020.

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:

1. *Communications from the Prime Minister or his ministerial office staff, including emails and sms messages or similar to the Premier of NSW, Gladys Berejiklian and/or her ministerial staff or the NSW Minister for emergency management, David Elliott and/or his ministerial staff or to the NSW Rural Fire Service commander, Shane Fitzsimmons offering naval vessels or other military assistance in connection with evacuations from bushfire affected areas.*
2. *Any briefing notes to the Prime Minister or his office dealing with offers of military assistance made to NSW and NSW's response to the offers.*
3. *Any communications from the Premier, Minister Elliott, or Commander Fitzsimmons rejecting offers of naval vessels or military assistance offered.*

Please confine the search to 22 December 2019 to 10 January 2020.

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:

All emails from the Prime Minister's Office containing the term "Community Sports Infrastructure Grant" between 25/08/2018 and 01/06/2019.

All emails between the Prime Minister's Office and Sport Australia between 25/08/2018 and 01/06/201[sic]

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.

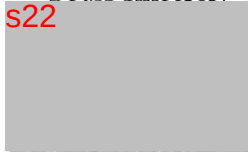
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

All emails from the Prime Minister's Office containing the term "Community Sports Infrastructure Grant" between 25/08/2018 and 01/06/2019.

All emails between the Prime Minister's Office and Sport Australia between 25/08/2018 and 01/06/201[sic]

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:

Can you please provide the “representations” from the Prime Minister’s office to the then-sports minister’s office referred to on p39 of the report (footnote 46) here: https://www.anao.gov.au/sites/default/files/Auditor-General_Report_2019-2020_23.pdf

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. Your request refers to the "representations" mentioned in footnote 46 of the Auditor-General's Report (**Report**), which states that:

The evidence available to the ANAO is that representations were received across the three rounds both directly and indirectly, including through the Prime Minister's Office.

However, neither that particular footnote nor the rest of that Report provide specific information on the date, author, recipient, nature or subject matter of those representations. Further, it is unclear what "direct representations" and "indirect representations" mean in this context.

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.

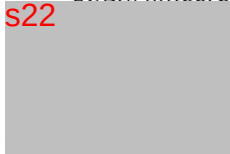
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

Please provide the following information:

- *Whether in the last year, your office or the Australian Government has requested, received, or considered any assessments, briefings, reports or documents that review the risks presented by climate change to Australia, including the severity and likelihood of the ecological, economic, or social impacts and whether these risks are serious or catastrophic and require an emergency response.*
- *A copy of any of the above assessments, briefings, reports or documents.*
- *A copy of any documents that record the response by your office or the Australian Government to such assessments, briefings, reports or documents, including any plans or proposed actions.*

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:

Please provide the following information:

- *Whether in the last year, your office or the Australian Government has requested, received, or considered any assessments, briefings, reports or documents that review the risks presented by climate change to Australia, including the severity and likelihood of the ecological, economic, or social impacts and whether these risks are serious or catastrophic and require an emergency response.*
- *A copy of any of the above assessments, briefings, reports or documents.*
- *A copy of any documents that record the response by your office or the Australian Government to such assessments, briefings, reports or documents, including any plans or proposed actions.*

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:

I am seeking access to:

- a. Documents containing briefings to the Prime Minister's Office on the upcoming bushfire season, from 1 March 2019 to 31 Dec 2019.
- b. Documents, correspondence, emails, minutes and briefings prepared by staff in the Prime Minister's Office containing information about media strategies and/or media responses in relation to the bushfires, from 31 Aug 2019 until today.

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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:

All documents held by the office of the Prime Minister relating to Administration of Government Grants: Inquiry into Auditor-General's Reports 5, 12 and 23 (2019-20) being conducted by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit created in the period 7 November 2019 until 28 February 2020 (inclusive).

My request includes, but is not limited to: emails, briefs, correspondence, requests for advice, internal memos, electronic messages including SMS and WhatsApp messages, and records of phone calls. This should include all internal departmental communications within the Department, communications between departments, as well as any communication between the Department, Ministers, Ministers offices and other parliamentary offices related to the Order for the Production of Documents.

This request excludes (a) the names of any non-Senior Executive Service officers and (b) duplicate documents.

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:

All correspondence since 24 August 2018 between the Prime Minister and South Australian Premier Hon Steven Marshall MP.

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.

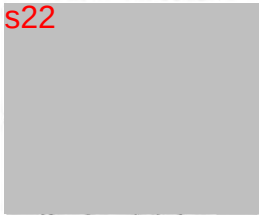
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

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:

All email correspondence containing the words "Formula One", "Formula 1" and "Grand Prix" received or sent by the Prime Minister's Office between February 1 and March 11 2020.

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:

My application seeks documents held by the Prime Minister's Office created between 1 January 2020 and 23 March 2020 within the following scope:

- *Briefings, reports, memos, and correspondence relating to any proposals, suggestions, or advice to restrict international arrivals from the United States of America, in relation to coronavirus and COVID-19.*

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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

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.

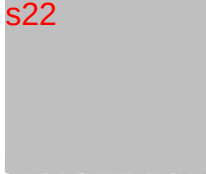
If you were to revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the above concerns, processing of your request would recommence. If you do not respond within the next 14 days, I intend to proceed to a decision refusing your request under section 24(1) of the FOI Act, based on the current terms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

3. 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:

My application seeks documents held by the Prime Minister's Office created between 1 January 2020 and 23 March 2020 within the following scope:

- 1. Policies, guidelines, and briefings into the measures to be taken in the event a member of Cabinet were to be diagnosed with COVID-19;*
- 2. Briefings, reports, memos, and correspondence relating to measures to be taken as a result of the diagnosis of Peter Dutton with COVID-19.*

The scope of my request does not include any document created by a doctor or physician who is directly responsible for the diagnosis or treatment of Peter Dutton.

I advise I am not interested in duplicate copies of documents or documents that have already been publicly released or media releases, media articles or media statements.

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 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 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:

- 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 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

3 . April 2020