



13 December 2019

BY EMAIL: [REDACTED]

**In reply please quote:**

FOI Request: FA 19/07/01558

File Number: OBJ2019/43676

Dear [REDACTED]

**Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision**

On 23 July 2019, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to a document under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

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

**1 Scope of request**

You have requested access to the following document:

*Immigration health processing guidelines for visa officers - I believe the link is this:  
<https://bordernet.immi.local/border-ops/processing/visa/health/processing-guidelines-visa-officers>.*

**2 Authority to make decision**

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate records.

**3 Relevant material**

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the document relevant to the request
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines)
- advice from departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the document to which you sought access

#### **4 Document in scope of request**

I have interpreted your request for a document to refer to the specific page *Immigration health processing guidelines for visa officers*.

The Department has identified one document as falling within the scope of your request. This document was in the possession of the Department on 23 July 2019 when your request was received.

If you wish to request access any of the individual documents listed on the page, please lodge a new FOI request specifying which documents you seek access to.

#### **5 Decision**

The decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department which falls within the scope of your request is as follows:

- Release one document in part with exemptions.

#### **6 Reasons for Decision**

Detailed reasons for my decision are set out below.

My findings of fact and reasons for deciding that the exemption provision applies to that information are set out below.

##### **6.1 Section 22 of the FOI Act – irrelevant to request**

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if giving access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request, it is possible for the Department to prepare an edited copy of the document, modified by deletions, ensuring that the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request.

Parts of the document contains information which consists of footers which have automatically been added to those document when they were printed from the Department's system. That information provides an online address for the Department's computer systems and does not form part of your file and records held by the Department. I consider this information to be irrelevant to your FOI request.

I have therefore decided that parts of document marked 's22(1)(a)(ii)' would disclose information that could reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to your request and have therefore prepared an edited copy of the document, with the irrelevant material deleted pursuant to section 22(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act.

The remainder of the document has been released to you as it is relevant to your request.

#### **7 Legislation**

A copy of the FOI Act is available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

## 8 Your Review Rights

### Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days. Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: [foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au)

OR

By mail to:  
Freedom of Information Section  
Department of Home Affairs  
PO Box 25  
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

### Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>.

## 9 Making a Complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email [enquiries@oaic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@oaic.gov.au)

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

## 10 Contacting the FOI Section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at: [foi@homeaffairs.gov.au](mailto:foi@homeaffairs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Authorised Decision Maker  
Department of Home Affairs**