



4 June 2019

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 19/02/01089

File Number: ADF2019/8183

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 19 February 2019, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

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

1 Scope of request

You requested access to the following documents:

- 1) *a summary document outlining the contract between KPMG and the Department of Home Affairs for KPMG to act as the commercial adviser in the procurement of Paladin to provide services to refugees on Manus Island*
- 2) *a summary document of the final report produced by KPMG in regards to Paladin and*
- 3) *a summary document detailing the contracts and the amount of work KPMG has done for the department and its antecedents since 2017.*

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 documents 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)
- consultation responses from third parties consulted in accordance with the FOI Act, and
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access.

4 Documents in scope of request

You have requested access to “*summary document[s] ...*”. The Department is not required to create a document to meet an FOI request. In considering the documents held by the Department, I had regard to the FOI guidelines, which state at paragraph 3.110:

A request can be described quite broadly and must be read fairly by an agency ... being mindful not to take a narrow or pedantic approach to its construction.

The Department considered what documents it holds that would satisfy your request. A total of six documents have been identified as falling within the scope of your request:

- Part 1: four documents, being Order for Services CBS17-19 and three subsequent Variation Orders
- Part 2: one document, being a Financial Strength Assessment of Paladin Solutions PNG Ltd
- Part 3: one document produced in accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act.

I note that the document produced by the Department in relation to part 3 of your request contains the total amount of work KPMG has undertaken for the Department since 2017. The details of the related services undertaken by KPMG is publicly available on the Australian Government’s procurement information system, which can be found here: <https://www.tenders.gov.au/>.

The documents identified as being relevant to your request were in the possession of the Department on 19 February 2019 when your request was received.

Attachment A is a schedule which describes the relevant documents and sets out my decision in relation to each of them.

5 Decision

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

- Release one document in full
- Release four documents in part with deletions
- Exempt one document in full from disclosure.

6 Reasons for Decision

Detailed reasons for my decision are set out below. Attachment A should be read in conjunction with 6.1 and 6.2 below. Where the schedule of documents indicates an exemption claim has been applied to a document or part of document, 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 redactions, ensuring that the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request.

On 20 February 2019, the Department advised you that its policy is to exclude the personal details of officers not in the Senior Executive Service (SES), as well as the mobile and work telephone numbers of SES staff, contained in documents that fall within scope of an FOI request. This policy extends to staff with the Department's Contracted Service Providers.

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

The remainder of the documents were considered for release to you as they are relevant to your request.

6.2 Section 47 of the FOI Act – Documents disclosing commercially valuable information

Section 47 provides that a document is an exempt document if its disclosure under this Act would disclose any information having a commercial value that would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if the information were disclosed.

In determining whether the information within the documents is commercially valuable, I have had regard to the following factors:

- whether the information is known only to the person for whom it has value or, if it is known to others, to what extent that detracts from its intrinsic commercial value
- whether the information confers a competitive advantage on the person to whom it relates – for example, if it lowers the cost of production or allows access to markets not available to competitors
- whether a genuine 'arm's-length' buyer would be prepared to pay to obtain that information
- whether the information is still current or out of date (noting that out of date information may no longer have any value)
- whether disclosing the information would reduce the value of a business operation or commercial activity, reflected perhaps in a lower share price.

I am satisfied that parts of documents 1.1-1.4 and the whole of document 2 contain information of a commercial value and that there is a reasonable likelihood that value would be, or could reasonably be expected to be, destroyed or diminished if the information were disclosed.

In making my decision, I had regard to exemption contentions received from an affected third party, who was consulted under section 27 of the FOI Act in relation to the proposed release of these documents.

I am satisfied that the information contained within the documents is valuable for the purpose of carrying on the commercial activities in which an entity is engaged. The information is relevant to the profitability or viability of a continuing business operation. If the information were to be released, it could enable a competitor to obtain a commercial advantage over the entity.

I decided that parts of documents 1.1-1.4 and the whole of document 2 are exempt from disclosure under section 47 of the FOI Act.

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

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

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.



**Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Home Affairs**

ATTACHMENT A

SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS REQUEST UNDER *FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982*

FOI request: FA 19/02/01089

No	Date of document	No. of pages	Description of document	Decision on access	
1.1	13/7/2017	7	Schedule 9 Order for Services CBS17-19 Order for Commercial, Finance, Project Support Services for Garrison and Welfare Services	Release in part	s22 (1)(a)(ii) s47
1.2	29/11/2017	2	Work Order Number CBS17-19 Variation Order Number 1	Release in part	s22 (1)(a)(ii) s47
1.3	18/04/2018	2	Work Order Number CBS17-19 Variation Order Number 2	Release in part	s22 (1)(a)(ii) s47
1.4	05/06/2018	2	Work Order Number CBS17-19 Variation Order Number 3	Release in part	s22 (1)(a)(ii) s47
2	Undated	16	Financial Strength Assessment of Paladin Solutions PNG Ltd Department of Immigration and Border Protection Provision of Garrison Services at the East Lorengau Refugee Transit Centre (RFQ 1750034)	Exempt in full	s47 (1)(a)(ii)
3	Undated	1	Total payments to KPMG from 1 January 2017 to 28 February 2019	Release in full	