



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

ANDREW FISHER BUILDING  
ONE NATIONAL CIRCUIT  
BARTON

PMC Ref: FOI/2021/299

Dear Mr Patrick

#### Information relating to your FOI request (FOI/2021/299) – document identified

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As you would be aware, on 13 December 2021 a delegate of the Secretary made a decision pursuant to section 24A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), that no documents could be found or documents did not exist after reasonable searches had been conducted.

The delegate's decision was reviewed by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) and the Department provided additional details as to the searches undertaken, and also conducted additional searches to further ensure all reasonable steps had been taken to locate the document.

At 7pm on 2 December 2024, the Department received information from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) indicating that the Department received a copy of a document relevant to a separate (but related) FOI request made by you to the then Attorney-General, the Hon Christian Porter.

On 3 December 2024, urgent steps were taken to reactivate the email inbox of a former employee of the Department. Following searches of the reconstructed inbox, the document relevant to your previous FOI request to the Department was located.

#### Details of document in possession of PM&C

As a result of the searches undertaken by the Department on 3 December 2024, it is clear that at the time the Department processed your 2021 FOI request (FOI/2021/299) in November 2021, the Department did have in its possession a document within the scope of your request.

The Department is reviewing the searches conducted when your FOI request was processed, as well as the subsequent searches undertaken during the Information Commissioner review process. While this examination is underway, we are writing to you at the earliest opportunity to advise that the Department has identified a document relevant to the scope of your 2021 FOI request (FOI/2021/299). The Department sincerely regrets that this document was not identified in previous searches.