



Office of Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher

Minister for Finance
Minister for Women
Minister for the Public Service
Senator for the Australian Capital Territory

By email only: foi+request-11442-624a466a@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Applicant,

Freedom of Information Request No. 2324-11

On 22 May 2024, the Department of Finance received your request under the *Commonwealth Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

Your request sought access to documents in the following terms:

All public speeches made by the Minister for Finance that contain a condemnation about the killing of children in the occupied Palestinian Territories, specifically in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip since 7 October 2023. I require all draft and final versions of these speeches.

Following clarification with you, the Department of Finance requested a transfer of the request under section 16 of the FOI Act to the Finance Minister's office.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with my notice of my decision under the FOI Act.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act to grant or refuse access to documents.

Decision

I have identified two documents that fall within the scope of your request. I have decided to release both documents in full.

Both documents are publicly available at the following web addresses:

1. Statement to the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting Plenary Session on Dealing with Ongoing International Tensions:

<https://ministers.finance.gov.au/financeminister/speech/2024/02/21/statement-g20-foreign-ministers-meeting-plenary-session-dealing-ongoing-international-tensions>

2. Parliamentary Hansard Speech:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Hansard/Hansard_Display?bid=chamber/hansards/27575/&sid=0017

The documents have also been provided as a separate attachment to this notice of decision.

In making my decision, I have had regard to the following:

- The terms of your FOI request;
- The relevant provisions of the FOI Act;
- The principles of the FOI Act, including the objects of the Act to promote transparency and accountability;
- The FOI Guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (FOI Guidelines, issued December 2023).
- The nature and content of the documents identified as within the scope of your request;

Charges

I have decided that a charge is not payable in this matter.

Review and appeal rights

You are entitled to request an external review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) of my decision. The process for review and appeal rights is set out at **Attachment A**.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Bailey
Adviser
Office of the Minister for Finance
21 June 2024

ATTACHMENT A

Rights of Review

Asking for a full explanation of a Freedom of Information decision

If you are dissatisfied with this decision, you may seek review. Before you seek review of a Freedom of Information (FOI) decision, you may contact us to discuss your request and we will explain the decision to you.

Applying for external review by the Australian Information Commissioner

If you do not agree with the original FOI decision or the internal review decision, you can ask the Australian Information Commissioner to review the decision. You have 60 days to apply in writing for a review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (the OAIC) from the date you received this letter or any subsequent internal review decision.

You can **lodge your application**:

- Online: www.oaic.gov.au
- Post: Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001
- Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au

The OAIC encourage applicants to apply online. Where possible, to assist the OAIC you should include your contact information, a copy of the related FOI decision and provide details of your reasons for objecting to the decision.

Complaints to the Information Commissioner and Commonwealth Ombudsman

Information Commissioner

You may complain to the Information Commissioner concerning action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be made in writing. The Information Commissioner's contact details are:

- Telephone: 1300 363 992
- Website: www.oaic.gov.au

Commonwealth Ombudsman

You may complain to the Ombudsman concerning action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act. There is no fee for making a complaint. A complaint to the Ombudsman may be made in person, by telephone or in writing. The Ombudsman's contact details are:

- Phone: 1300 362 072
- Website: www.ombudsman.gov.au