



August 2024

Deborah-May Torrens

By email: foi+request-11694-b0040aba@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Deborah-May Torrens

RE: Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your request received by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the department) on 16 July 2024 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

'copies of correspondence between Ruel E. Serrano, (WHO Regional officer for Western Pacific Manila, Philippines), and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 16 July 2022 to 16 July 2024.'

I am writing to provide you with a decision about your request.

Decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests and have been appointed as the decision-maker on your request.

Thorough searches conducted by the Southeast Asia Maritime Branch, the Multilateral Health Branch, and the Australian Embassy to the Philippines found no documents matching the description of the documents you requested.

In accordance with section 24A(1) of the FOI Act, your request for access to documents is refused as all reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents and I am satisfied that the documents do not exist.

Sections of the FOI Act referenced in my decision letter can be found online at www.legislation.gov.au.

Review rights

Information about your review rights is set out in the **Attachment** for your reference.

Contact

Should you have any queries regarding this decision please contact the Freedom of Information Section by email: foi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Brooke King

Brooke King
A/g Director
Freedom of Information Section

Your review rights

Internal review

You may apply for internal review of the decision (section 54 of the FOI Act). The internal review application must be made within 30 calendar days from the day you receive this notice.

Where possible, please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by another officer within 30 days. Any request for internal review should be directed via email to foi@dfat.gov.au or addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221
Australia*

Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply to the Australian Information Commissioner to review my decision (section 54L of the FOI Act). To do this, you must contact the Australian Information Commissioner within 60 calendar days from the day you receive this notice.

You may also make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner about the department's actions in relation to this decision (section 70 of the FOI Act). Making such a complaint about the way the department has handled your FOI request is a separate process to seeking review of my decision.

Further information on applying for an Australian Information Commissioner review is available at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/your-freedom-of-information-rights/freedom-of-information-reviews>.

Further information about how to make a complaint is available at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/your-freedom-of-information-rights/freedom-of-information-complaints>.