

31 January 2025

Gary

By email: [foi+request-12725-5bca473c@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-12725-5bca473c@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Gary

## DECISION – ABC FOI 202425-082

I refer to your email sent Monday 13 January 2025 seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) to:

... in respect of the ABC's coverage of the 2024 US election, a table summarising submitted expenses for payment by the ABC broken down into flights, accommodation and other and any out of pocket expenses for Mr David Speers, Ms Sarah Ferguson and any support crew who assisted with coverage in the US [up until 13 January 2025].

A decision on your request is due by Wednesday **12 February 2025**.

### Authorisation

I am authorised by the Managing Director of the ABC to make decisions about FOI requests under s 23 of the FOI Act.

### Decision

I have identified one document that answers the scope of your request - **Document 1**, as described in **Schedule 1**, attached.

I have granted access to **Document 1** in full.

### Material taken into account

In making my decision I have considered:

- the scope of your request
- the content of the documents requested
- the FOI Act
- the guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under s 93A of the FOI Act (**the Guidelines**)

### Locating and identifying documents

The search for documents included approaching the ABC Finance team.

I consider all reasonable steps were taken to identify and locate relevant documents that answer your request. I am satisfied that the searches conducted were thorough and all reasonable steps have been taken to locate the documents relevant to your request.

**Document 1** did not exist at the time of your request, however the ABC was able to create it for you, as provided for under s 17 of the FOI Act.

**Reasons for decision**

It is my view that it is in the public interest to provide access to **Document 1** in full.

**Review rights**

Your review rights are set out in **Annexure A**.

Yours sincerely



**Ali Edwards**  
**Head of Rights Management & FOI Decision Maker**  
[foi.abc@abc.net.au](mailto:foi.abc@abc.net.au)

**Schedule 1 – Document Schedule – FOI 202425-082**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page/s</b>	<b>Access grant decision</b>	<b>Exemption section/s</b>
01	January 2025	Document showing submitted expenses for specified staff re the 2024 US election	1	Full	-

## **Annexure A – Your Review Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with this decision you can apply for Internal Review by the ABC, or Information Commissioner (IC) Review. You do not have to apply for Internal Review before seeking IC Review.

### **APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW BY THE ABC**

You have the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request. If you apply for an internal review, a delegate who is not the person who made the initial decision will undertake a review and make a fresh decision.

You must apply in writing for an internal review of the decision **within 30 days** of receipt of this letter. No particular form is required, although it helps if you set out the reasons for review in your application and include the decision under review.

Application for a review of the original decision should be emailed to: [foi.abc@abc.net.au](mailto:foi.abc@abc.net.au)

or posted to: **FOI team**  
ABC Legal  
GPO Box 9994  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

### **APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (IC) REVIEW**

Alternatively, you have the right to apply for a review by the Information Commissioner of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request. Your application must:

- be in writing;
- be made **within 60 days** of receipt of this letter (the original decision or the internal review decision, or a deemed refusal decision);
- give details of how notices may be sent to you (for instance, an email address); and
- include a copy of the decision for which a review sought.

Please refer to the OAIC website the IC review process page for further information including the online form for applying for IC review:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/your-freedom-of-information-rights/freedom-of-information-reviews>

Alternatively, an application for IC Review can be emailed to: [FOIDR@oaic.gov.au](mailto:FOIDR@oaic.gov.au) or

posted to: Director of FOI Dispute Resolution  
OAIC  
GPO Box 5218  
Sydney NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner has a discretion not to undertake a review.

### **COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

You may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by the ABC in the performance of functions, or exercise of powers, under the FOI Act. The Information Commissioner may make inquiries for the purpose of determining whether or not to investigate a complaint.

Complaints can be made in writing to:

OAIC - GPO Box 5218  
Sydney NSW 2001