

t 1300 00 6842

e enquiries@ovic.vic.gov.au

w ovic.vic.gov.au

PO Box 24274 Melbourne Victoria 3001

# **Notice of Decision and Reasons for Decision**

Applicant: 'ED3'

Agency: Department of Premier and Cabinet

Decision date: 12 May 2022

Exemptions considered: Sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)

Citation: 'ED3' and Department of Premier and Cabinet (Freedom of Information)

[2022] VICmr 56 (12 May 2022)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – briefing for the Secretary – market research – purchase order –questions –

All references to legislation in this document are to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Vic) (**FOI Act**) unless otherwise stated.

## **Notice of Decision**

I have conducted a review under section 49F of the Agency's decision to refuse access to documents requested by the Applicant under the FOI Act.

My decision on the Applicant's request differs from the Agency's decision.

While I am satisfied certain information in the documents is exempt from release under sections 28(1)(c) and 28(1)(d), I am not satisfied the documents are exempt from release under section 30(1).

Where I am satisfied it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of a document with exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25, access to the document is granted in part.

The Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1** sets out my decision in relation to each document.

My reasons for decision follow.

#### **Sven Bluemmel**

Information Commissioner

12 May 2022

## **Reasons for Decision**

## **Background to review**

- 1. The Applicant, who is a journalist for a media organisation, made a request to the Agency seeking access to the following documents:
  - ... all documents (both hard and electronic, emails including) detailing communications between a company called [company name] and ... [Name of Agency officer] and [Name of Agency officer] and the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Premier Daniel Andrews and his chief-of-staff [Name] for the period of [date] to [date]. Additionally, [the Applicant] is seeking access to documents and communications relevant to the decision to exempt [company name] from competitive tendering arrangements for the contract awarded on [date].
- 2. On [date], the Applicant agreed to narrow the scope of their request with respect to spreadsheets containing [type of research] data to the first 10 pages of data as it appears in documents relevant to the terms of the request.
- 3. The Agency identified 64 documents falling within the terms of the Applicant's request and refused access to 57 documents in part and seven documents in full under sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1) and 34(1)(b). The Agency's decision letter sets out its reasons for decision.

## **Review application**

- 4. The Applicant sought review by the Information Commissioner under section 49A(1) of the Agency's decision to refuse access to the documents.
- 5. The Applicant advised they do not seek review of the Agency's decision to deny access to certain commercial and business affairs information under section 34(1) or the personal affairs information of third parties exempted from release under section 33(1), for example, a third party's name and contact details. Therefore, this information is irrelevant information for the purpose of section 25, which is discussed below.
- 6. I have examined a copy of the documents subject to review.
- 7. The Applicant and the Agency were invited to make a written submission under section 49H(2) in relation to the review. I have reviewed detailed submissions and all communications received from the parties.
- 8. In undertaking my review, I have had regard to the object of the FOI Act, which is to create a general right of access to information in the possession of the Government or other public bodies, limited only by exceptions and exemptions necessary to protect essential public interests, privacy and business affairs.
- 9. I note Parliament's intention the FOI Act must be interpreted so as to further the object of the Act and any discretions conferred by the Act must be exercised, as far as possible, so as to facilitate and promote the disclosure of information in a timely manner and at the lowest reasonable cost.

## **Review of exemptions**

- 10. The terms of the Applicant's request refer to communications between the Agency and [named company], and Agency officers, the Premier of Victoria and staff within the Office of the Premier.
- 11. I confirm none of the documents subject to review were sent to or by the Premier.

12. From my review of the Applicant's submission, they express concern regarding the Agency's reliance upon the Cabinet exemption on section 28(1) and highlight the public interest in disclosure of the documents given the subject matter, [being related to the COVID-19 pandemic] [redacted]:

The documents sought are in the possession of the DPC. The DPC leads the public service in pursuing and implementing Victorian government policy and goals. It is the most senior Department in the Victorian government. The documents requested relate to communications between a company called [company name] and the DPC. As is established from the documents produced, [company name] specialises in the area of [type of service]. They were awarded a contract by the Victorian government on [date] that was exempt from competitive tendering arrangements.

The documents produced indicate that while contracted to provide services to the Victorian government, [name of company] undertook [type of service]. The COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest public health issue of our generation and is a matter of enormous public interest. The Victorian public should be provided access to as much information as possible that provides an insight into how their government is responding to the pandemic and how decisions are made at the highest levels of government. Clearly, the documents sought pursuant to this Request are of immense public importance.

•••

## Section 28(1) - Cabinet documents

The Commissioner should be slow to accept bald assertions that documents fall within the ambit of section 28(1). The documents in this case relate merely to public perceptions of government. It simply cannot be argued that they could form the basis for hard policy decisions by cabinet. They are not, for example, documents which provide advice on health, economics, transport, logistics or policing and which would assist the cabinet in making decisions regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

I invite the Commissioner to scrutinise the withheld documents carefully with these issues in mind.

13. In *Ryan v Department of Infrastructure*, <sup>1</sup> the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**VCAT**) observed:

It has been said that a document is not exempt merely because it has some connection with Cabinet, or is perceived by departmental officers or others as being of a character that they believe ought to be regarded as a Cabinet document or because it has some Cabinet "aroma" around it. Rather, for a document to come within the Cabinet document exemption, "it must fit squarely within one of the four exemptions [(now five)]" in section 28(1) of the Act.

- 14. Given the terms of the Applicant's request and the documents requested, it is clear the Applicant did not anticipate a role for the Cabinet or a sub-committee of the Cabinet in communications between the Agency and [company name]. [Redacted].
- 15. From information provided by the Agency to OVIC for the purpose of this review, I am satisfied a sub-committee of the Cabinet (the **Sub-committee**) exists in relation to which information that relates to the terms of the Applicant's request is relevant. In some cases I am also satisfied that certain information was not put before the Sub-committee, but it was submitted to another relevant sub-committee of the Cabinet for consideration.
- 16. Accordingly, it is necessary to consider the Agency's application of the Cabinet exemptions given the role and purpose of the Sub-committee. It is also necessary to consider the application of section 30(1) in the context of the role the Agency plays in carrying out work on behalf of the Sub-committee and its provision of resultant information and documents to the Sub-committee for its consideration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> (2004) VCAT 2346 at [33].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Section 28(7)(a) defines 'Cabinet' as including a committee or sub-committee of the Cabinet.

## Section 28(1) - Cabinet documents

- 17. Section 28(1) provides a document is an exempt document if it is:
  - (a) the official record of any deliberation or decision of the Cabinet;
  - (b) a document that has been prepared by a Minister or on his or her behalf or by an agency for the purpose of submission for consideration by the Cabinet;
  - (ba) a document prepared for the purpose of briefing a Minister in relation to issues to be considered by the Cabinet;
  - (c) a document that is a copy or draft of, or contains extracts from, a document referred to in paragraph (a), (b) or (ba); or
  - (d) a document the disclosure of which would involve the disclosure of any deliberation or decision of the Cabinet, other than a document by which a decision of the Cabinet was officially published.
- 18. The Agency relies on the Cabinet exemptions under sections 28(1)(c) and 28(1)(d) to exempt from release certain documents the subject of this review.

Section 28(1)(c) – A copy or draft of, or contains extracts from, a document of the Cabinet

- 19. A document will be a copy of a Cabinet document if it is a reproduction of a Cabinet document, for example, a photocopy of a Cabinet submission.
- 20. A draft Cabinet document is a 'preliminary version' of the document. A document will not be a draft simply because it was created before the relevant Cabinet document or because there is information common to both a document and a Cabinet document. The relevant document should be a draft of the *actual* Cabinet document, and preferably be marked as 'draft' and not be documents of 'different kinds prepared by different agencies'.<sup>3</sup>
- 21. In relation to an extract from a Cabinet document, a document will usually contain a reproduction of part of the text or material from a Cabinet document such as a quote, table, paraphrase, or summary. Simply referring to a Cabinet document is not sufficient.<sup>4</sup>
- 22. In this case, the Agency submits in its submission made during the review in relation to section 28(1)(c):

#### <u>Draft copies of documents to be submitted to the Cabinet</u>

The department has exempted several draft documents under section 28(1)(c) of the Act on the basis that they are draft versions of documents prepared for the purpose of submission for consideration by the Cabinet.

To satisfy the requirements under 28(1)(c), a document must clearly be a draft. Evidence a document is a draft might be that it contains an extract or reproduction of text present in a final copy or contains the word 'draft.' The documents to which this exemption has been applied are clearly draft documents prepared for the purpose of submission to [a subcommittee of the Cabinet (the **Cabinet subcommittee**)]. These documents are provided as attachments to emails between DPC and [company name] and are labelled or described as drafts for [the Cabinet sub-committee] consideration.

23. In relation to whether a document contains an extract from a Cabinet document for the purposes of section 28(1)(c), Justice Morris held in *Honeywood v Department of Human Services*:<sup>5</sup>

The question of whether a document contains extracts from a Cabinet submission has not been authoritatively determined. In *Smith v Department of Sustainability and Environment*I commented that it would appear that a document cannot "contain extracts from" a Cabinet document

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Asher v Department of Infrastructure (2006) 25 VAR 143.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Mildenhall v DoE (unreported, VCAT, Glover M, 16 April 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> (General) [2006] VCAT 2048 (11 October 2006) at [19].

if it was created before the preparation of the Cabinet document. In *Mildenhall v Department of Education* it was suggested that a document will "contain extracts from" a Cabinet document if it contains a quotation or paraphrase of that document. Commonly a document that is an extract from another document will contain an attribution to the other document, but I accept that the absence of an attribution will not be fatal. The question will need to be determined by reference to all the evidence. In particular, the absence of an attribution will not be fatal where there is direct evidence before the tribunal of a process of extracting content from a Cabinet submission to be included in a document which is claimed to be exempt under section 28(1)(c) of the Act.

24. In Honey Smith v Department of Sustainability and Environment<sup>6</sup> Justice Morris earlier held:

There was another claim for exemption advanced that I will briefly comment on. This was a claim under section 28(1)(c) of the Act. The respondent submitted that the KPMG report (dated March 2003) contained "extracts from" the Cabinet submission dated 7 May 2003. Clearly the Cabinet submission dated 7 May 2003 is a document that was prepared by a minister for the purpose of submission for consideration by Cabinet. However I cannot accept the argument that the KPMG Report contains "extracts from" that Cabinet submission. It is true that the Cabinet submission contains passages which are identical to passages in the KPMG Report. I would characterise the Cabinet submission as containing "extracts from" the KPMG Report. However I cannot accept the argument that the reverse would apply, as the KPMG Report was a predecessor in time of the Cabinet submission. Notwithstanding what might have been said by Deputy President Macnamara in Mildenhall No (2), I would doubt that the expression "extracts from" could operate so as to apply to a document that was a predecessor of the document that was referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) or (ba) of section 28(1). [4]

25. My decision in relation to section 28(1)(c) is set out in the Schedule of Documents at **Annexure 1**.

Section 28(1)(d) – Deliberation or decision of the Cabinet

- 26. A document will be exempt under section 28(1)(d) if there is evidence the Cabinet discussed, deliberated upon or made a decision following its consideration of information or options set out in a document submitted to the Cabinet for its consideration.<sup>7</sup>
- 27. A 'decision' means any conclusion as to the course of action the Cabinet determines to adopt whether or not any conclusion is reached as to a final strategy on a matter or conclusions about how a matter should proceed.<sup>8</sup>
- 28. Where a decision or the recommendation of the Cabinet has been made public, releasing information would not disclose the Cabinet decision or deliberation.<sup>9</sup>
- 29. In this case, the Agency submits in its submission in relation to section 28(1)(d):

The department has exempted a range of documents under section 28(1)(d) of the Act, including emails containing [type of information] and [its] interpretation, on the basis that ...disclosure would disclose deliberations of the Cabinet.

The emails have been exempted on the basis they contain information the disclosure of which would reveal material intended to be deliberated on by [Cabinet sub-committee]. In *Secretary to the Department of Infrastructure v Asher* (2007) it was determined that if information itself discloses what is intended to be deliberated on by Cabinet, or a document is key to Cabinet deciding an issue, it could therefore reveal the deliberations of Cabinet.

The emails contain [type of information] undertaken by [company name] on behalf of the department as well as information regarding the interpretation of these [type of information]. Both the [type of information] and [its] interpretation [was] discussed in depth by [Cabinet sub-committee] during the various times they met to discuss [company name's] [service description] and in turn have formed the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> (General) [2006] VCAT 1228 (4 July 2006) at [28].

 $<sup>^7</sup>$  Smith v Department of Sustainability and Environment (2006) 25 VAR 65; [2006] VCAT 1228 at [23].

<sup>8</sup> Della-Riva v Department of Treasury and Finance (2005) 23 VAR 396; [2005] VCAT 2083 at [30].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Honeywood v Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (2004) 21 VAR 1453; [2004] VCAT 1657 at [26].

basis of associated decision making through that Cabinet Committee. Therefore, the department believes that disclosure of this information would reveal deliberations of the Cabinet and should be exempt.

30. My decision in relation to section 28(1)(d) is set out in the Schedule of Documents at **Annexure 1**.

#### Section 30(1) – Internal working documents

- 31. Section 30(1) has three requirements:
  - (a) the document must disclose matter in the nature of opinion, advice or recommendation prepared by an officer or Minister, or consultation or deliberation that has taken place between officers, Ministers or an officer and a Minister;
  - (b) such matter must be made in the course of, or for the purpose of, the deliberative processes involved in the functions of an agency or Minister or of the government; and
  - (c) disclosure of the matter would be contrary to the public interest.
- 32. The exemption does not apply to purely factual material in a document. 10
- 33. I must also be satisfied disclosure of a document would not be contrary to the public interest, which involves a 'process of the weighing against each other conflicting merits and demerits'. 11
- 34. I must also consider all relevant facts and circumstances remaining mindful the object of the FOI Act is to facilitate and promote the disclosure of government information.
- 35. In determining whether disclosure of the documents exempted by the Agency would be contrary to the public interest, I have given weight to the following relevant factors: 12
  - (a) the right of every person to gain access to documents under the FOI Act;
  - (b) the degree of sensitivity of the issues discussed in the documents and the broader context giving rise to the creation of the documents;
  - (c) the stage of a decision or status of policy development, or a process being undertaken at the time the communications were made;
  - (d) whether disclosure of the documents would be likely to inhibit communications between agency officers, essential for the Agency to make an informed and well-considered decision or participate fully and properly in a process in accordance with the Agency's functions and other statutory obligations;
  - (e) whether disclosure of the documents would give merely a part explanation, rather than a complete explanation for the taking of a particular decision or the outcome of a process, which the agency would not otherwise be able to explain upon disclosure of the documents;
  - (f) the impact of disclosing documents in draft form, including disclosure not clearly or accurately representing a final position or decision reached by the Agency at the conclusion of a decision or a deliberative process; and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Section 30(3).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Sinclair v Maryborough Mining Warden [1975] HCA 17; (1975) 132 CLR 473 at [485], adopted in Department of Premier and Cabinet v Hulls [1999] VSCA 117 at [30].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Hulls v Victorian Casino and Gambling Authority (1998) 12 VAR 483.

- (g) the public interest in the community being better informed about the way in which the Agency carries out its functions, including its deliberative, consultative and decision making processes and whether the underlying issues require greater public scrutiny.
- 36. In its submission, the Agency submits disclosure of the documents would be contrary to the public interest for the following reasons:

The department proposes that disclosure of the emails and draft documents would likely inhibit communication between agency officers to undertake such research in the future (*Marshall v Country Fire Authority*, 2000). Release may also be misleading as it would reveal options considered, however not pursued.

#### [Redacted]

The department considers that the disclosure of the draft documents would also likely cause confusion and ill-informed debate (*Hulls v Victorian Casino and Gaming Authority* (1998)), particularly in circumstances where a final version has been made available.

- 37. I am satisfied some of the documents disclose matter in the nature of opinion or advice prepared by an Agency officer in the course of the deliberative processes involved in the functions of the Agency, being the [type of research]. However, having carefully considered the content and context of the documents, I am not satisfied their disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.
- 38. I do not consider the information is particularly sensitive. Rather, I consider the focus of the [type of research] would be reasonably expected given the relevance of the [type of research] issues at that point in time.
- 39. I do not consider disclosure would reasonably inhibit the exchange of views between Agency officers where such communication is required in the carrying out of their professional duties on behalf of a government agency.
- 40. The document relates to [type of research] and future decision making by the Sub-committee. However, given the stage at which this document was created and its content, I am not satisfied on the information before me that its disclosure would have a substantial negative impact on government decision making. While I acknowledge the existence of the Sub-committee, I do not consider that the documents are closely connected to any submission of information for consideration by the Sub-committee.
- 41. I also consider there is a public interest in disclosure regarding the expenditure of public funds. In this case, where such funds are spent by government on [type of research] that may influence and impact upon government decision making, that public interest is particularly strong.
- 42. Accordingly, I am not satisfied any of the documents are exempt under section 30(1).

## Section 33(1) – documents affecting personal privacy

- 43. A document is exempt under section 33(1) if two conditions are satisfied:
  - (a) disclosure of the document under the FOI Act would 'involve' the disclosure of information relating to the 'personal affairs' of a person other than the Applicant; <sup>13</sup> and
  - (b) such disclosure would be 'unreasonable'.

7

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Sections 33(1) and 33(2).

- 44. Information relating to a person's 'personal affairs' includes information that identifies any person or discloses their address or location. It also includes any information from which such information may be reasonably determined.<sup>14</sup>
- 45. Accordingly, despite the Applicant not seeking access to the personal affairs information the Agency exempted from release under section 33(1), it is necessary to have regard to section 33(1) in relation to other information from which an individual could be identified.
- 46. The concept of 'unreasonable disclosure' involves balancing the public interest in the disclosure of official information with the interest in protecting a third party's personal privacy in the circumstances.
- 47. In determining whether the disclosure of a document would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information relating to the personal affairs of any person, I must take into account whether the disclosure of the information would, or would be reasonably likely to, endanger the life or physical safety of any person.<sup>15</sup> However, I do not consider this is a relevant factor in this case.
- 48. My decision in relation to section 33(1) is set out in the Schedule of Documents at **Annexure 1**.

### Section 25 – Deletion of exempt or irrelevant information

- 49. Section 25 requires an agency to grant access to an edited copy of a document where it is practicable to delete exempt or irrelevant information and the applicant agrees to receiving such a copy.
- 50. Determining what is 'practicable' requires consideration of the effort and editing involved in making the deletions 'from a resources point of view' <sup>16</sup> and the effectiveness of the deletions. Where deletions would render a document meaningless, they are not 'practicable', and release of the document is not required under section 25. <sup>17</sup>
- 51. I have considered the information the Agency deleted from the documents as irrelevant, and am satisfied it falls outside the scope of the Applicant's request.
- 52. I have considered whether it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the documents with irrelevant and exempt information deleted in accordance with section 25. I am satisfied it is practicable to do so, as it would not require substantial time and effort and the edited documents would retain meaning.

#### **Conclusion**

- 53. On the information before me, I am satisfied certain information in the documents is exempt from release under sections 28(1)(c) and 28(1)(d).
- 54. However, I am not satisfied any of the documents are exempt from release under section 30(1).
- 55. Where I am satisfied it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of a document with exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25, access to the document is granted in part.
- 56. The Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1** sets out my decision in relation to each document.

<sup>15</sup> Section 33(2A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Section 33(9).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Mickelburough v Victoria Police (General) [2009] VCAT 2786 at [31]; The Herald and Weekly Times Pty Limited v The Office of the Premier (General) [2012] VCAT 967 at [82].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Honeywood v Department of Human Services [2006] VCAT 2048 at [26]; RFJ v Victoria Police FOI Division (Review and Regulation) [2013] VCAT 1267 at [140] and [155].

## **Review rights**

- 57. If either party to this review is not satisfied with my decision, they are entitled to apply to the VCAT for it to be reviewed. 18
- 58. The Applicant may apply to VCAT for a review up to 60 days from the date they are given this Notice of Decision. 19
- 59. The Agency may apply to VCAT for a review up to 14 days from the date it is given this Notice of Decision.<sup>20</sup>
- 60. Information about how to apply to VCAT is available online at www.vcat.vic.gov.au. Alternatively, VCAT may be contacted by email at admin@vcat.vic.gov.au or by telephone on 1300 018 228.
- 61. The Agency is required to notify the Information Commissioner in writing as soon as practicable if either party applies to VCAT for a review of my decision.<sup>21</sup>

## When this decision takes effect

- 62. My decision does not take effect until the Agency's 14 day review period expires.
- 63. If a review application is made to VCAT, my decision will be subject to any VCAT determination.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> The Applicant in section 50(1)(b) and the Agency in section 50(3D).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Section 52(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Section 52(9).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Sections 50(3F) and 50(3FA).

# Annexure 1 - Schedule of Documents

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
1	[date]	Briefing to the Secretary	12	Released in part  Sections 33(1),  34(1)(b)	Not subject to review	
2	[date]	Email	3	Released in part Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
3	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 33(1), 30(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): For the reasons given in paragraphs 31 to 42 above, I am not satisfied this document is exempt under section 30(1).  Section 25: The Applicant does not seek access to personal affairs information being:  • Agency officer names; • mobile and telephone numbers; • email addresses; • signatures; and • the names of administrative staff who printed out the document.  This information is irrelevant information for the purpose of section 25, and I am satisfied it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the document with this

Schedule of Documents

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
						information deleted.
4	[date]	Email and attachments	3	Refused in full Sections 28(1)(d), 30(1)	Refuse in full Section 28(1)(d)	Section 28(1)(d): Based on the information submitted to OVIC by the Agency during the review, I am satisfied this document records information that was the subject of deliberation by the Sub-committee. Accordingly, I am satisfied it is exempt under section 28(1)(d).  Attachments: The Agency submits the spreadsheets attached to this email were converted to PDFs and appear at Documents 31(2) and 34(1). In accordance with the Applicant's instructions, the Agency limited the processing of the spreadsheets to the first 10 pages of the document. However, I note eight pages of spreadsheets appear throughout the document only. As I am satisfied the spreadsheets are exempt in full under section 28(1)(d), I have not requested the Agency conduct a further assessment of the data to identify the additional two pages.  Section 25: Given the content of the document and my decision in relation to section 28(1)(d), I am satisfied the

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
						document is exempt in full and it is not practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the document in accordance with section 25.
5	[date]	Email and attachments	2	Refused in full Sections 28(1)(d), 30(1)	Refuse in full Section 28(1)(d)	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Attachments: See comments for Document 4.
6	[date]	Email	1	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following irrelevant and exempt information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information the Agency exempted from release under sections 28(1)(d) and section 33(1).	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Section 25: I am satisfied it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the document with exempt information deleted in accordance with section 25. See also comments for Document 3.
7	[date]	Email	2	Released in part	Release in part	Section 33(1): The information exempted by the Agency is personal

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				Sections 33(1)	Sections 33(1), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	affairs information that would be unreasonable to disclose. This is because it relates to the personal circumstances of an employee. It is therefore exempt under section 33(1).  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
8	[date]	Email	15	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1), 34(1)(b)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under sections 33(1) and 34(1)(b).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3. Note also the Applicant is not seeking access to information exempted from release under section 34(1)(b). Therefore, this information is also irrelevant to the request.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
9	[date]	Email	12	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Sections 33(1), 34(1)(b)		
10	[date]	Email	4	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Section 33(1)		
11	[date]	Email	6	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Section 33 (1)		
12	[date]	Email	1	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Section 33(1)		
13	Undated	Email	9	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Section 33(1)		
14	[date]	Email	14	Released in part	Not subject to review	
				Sections 33(1), 34(1)(b)		
15	[date]	Email	3	Refused in full	Release in part	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.
				Sections 30(1),	Section 25	

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				33(1)	The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  the irrelevant information in the document being names, telephone numbers and email addresses.	Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
16	[date]	Email and attachment	2	Refused in full  Sections 28(1)(c), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  in the email dated 17/01/2020 at 10:55PM, the second sentence;	Section 28(1)(c): Based on the information before me, I am satisfied the attachment is a document that contains a copy, draft or extract from a document referred to in section 28(1)(b), being a document prepared for consideration by Cabinet.  Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					the attachment.	
17	[date]	Email and attachment	7	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1), 34(1)(b)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1) and 34(1)(b).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3 and 8.  The Agency does not claim an exemption for the attachment. Therefore, it is to be released in full.
18	[date]	Email	10	Released in part Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
19	[date]	Email	3	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
20	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
21	[date]	Email	1	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
22	[date]	Email	5	Released in part	Release in part	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.
				Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance	Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					<ul> <li>with section 25:</li> <li>the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).</li> </ul>	
23	[date]	Email	9	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
24	[date]	Email	2	Released in part Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					deleted in accordance with section 25:  the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
25	[date]	Email	3	Released in part Sections 30(1), 33(1), 34(1)(b)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under sections 33(1) and 34(1)(b).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3 and 8.
26	[date]	Email	1	Released in part Sections 28(1)(d), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under sections 28(1)(d) and 33(1).	
27	[date]	Email	2	Released in part Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
28	[date]	Email	12	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
29	[date]	Email	3	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information the Agency determined exempt under section 28(1)(d) on page 1 of the document and the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  However, I am not satisfied the information exempted by the Agency on page 2 discloses a deliberation of Cabinet. Therefore, I am not satisfied it is exempt under section 28(1)(d).  Section 30(1): For completeness, I also do not consider disclosure would be contrary to the public interest. See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
30	[date]	Email and attachment	6	Released in part Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.  The attachment to this email is the same as that referred to in Document

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					<ul> <li>deleted in accordance with section 25:</li> <li>the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).</li> </ul>	17.
31	[date]	Email with attachments	47	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under sections 33(1) and 28(1)(c) and the information exempted under section 28(1)(d) in the second attachment.	Section 28(1)(c): Based on information submitted by the Agency, I am satisfied the draft report attachment is a draft of a document prepared for the purpose of submission to the Cabinet. Therefore, I am satisfied it is exempt from release under section 28(1)(c).  Section 28(1)(d): I am not satisfied all information identified by the Agency is exempt under section 28(1)(d). While the document refers to [type of research], I do not consider it is specific enough to disclose Cabinet deliberations. Therefore, I am not satisfied it is exempt under section 28(1)(d).  However, I am satisfied the information in the second attachment is exempt from release under section 28(1)(d). See comments for Document 4.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
						Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
32	[date]	Email	20	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
33	[date]	Email	6	Released in part  Sections 33(1),  34(1)(b)	Not subject to review	
34	[date]	Email	14	Released in part	Release in part	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				Sections 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)	Sections 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 28(1)(d) and 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
35	[date]	Email	12	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
36	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
37	[date]	Email	1	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.  Attachments: See comments for Document 5.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
38	[date]	Email	39	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under sections 28(1)(c) and 33(1).	Section 28(1)(c): I am satisfied the attachment is exempt under section 28(1)(c). See comments for Document 31.  Section 28(1)(d): I am not satisfied the information exempted by the Agency on page 1 contains a deliberation of decision of the Cabinet. Therefore I am satisfied it is not exempt under section 28(1)(d).  Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
39	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:	Section 28(1)(c): I am satisfied the attachment is exempt under section 28(1)(c). See comments for Document 31.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					the information exempted by the Agency under sections 28(1)(c) and 33(1).	
40	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(c), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
41	[date]	Email	9	Released in part  Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
42	[date]	Email	10	Released in part  Sections 30(1),  33(1)	Release in part Section 25	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:	
					the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
43	[date]	Email	2	Refused in full  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
44	[date]	Email	1	Refused in full Sections 28(1)(d),	Refuse in full  Section 28(1)(d)	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				33(1)		
45	[date]	Email	9	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
46	[date]	Email	8	Released in part  Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
47	[date]	Email	2	Refused in full  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
48	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 28(1)(d) and 33(1).	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.  Attachments: See comments for Document 5.
49	[date]	Email	1	Released in part  Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
50	[date]	Email	1	Released in part	Release in part	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 25: See comments for Document 3.  Attachments: See comments for Document 5.
51	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
52	[date]	Email	4	Released in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Sections 28(1)(d), 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 28(1)(d) and 33(1).	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 4.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
53	[date]	Email and attachment	3	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  the information exempted by the Agency under	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					section 33(1).	
54	[date]	Email	10	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
55	[date]	Email	1	Released in part	Not subject to review	
56	[date]	Email	8	Section 33(1)  Released in part  Sections 30(1),  33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					<ul> <li>with section 25:</li> <li>the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).</li> </ul>	
57	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
58	[date]	Email	2	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					deleted in accordance with section 25:  the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
59	[date]	Email	1	Released in part Sections 28(1)(d), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 28(1)(d): See comments for Document 38.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
60	[date]	Email	3	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
					irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:	
					the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	
61	[date]	Email	4	Released in part Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	
62	[date]	Email	3	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Release in part  Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  • the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.  Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
63	[date]	Email	4	Released in part	Release in part	Section 30(1): See comments for Document 3.

Schedule of Documents

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of Pages	Agency decision	OVIC decision	OVIC comments
				Sections 30(1), 33(1)	Section 25  The document is to be released with the following exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25:  the information exempted by the Agency under section 33(1).	Section 25: See comments for Document 3.
64	[date]	Email	1	Released in part Section 33(1)	Not subject to review	