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

Applicant: 'EK5'

Agency: Victoria Police

Decision date: 6 May 2022

Exemptions considered: Sections 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1), 35(1)(b)

Citation: 'EK5' and Victoria Police (Freedom of Information) [2022] VICmr 123 (6

May 2022)

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – police investigation – safety concerns – confidential information source – disclosure of police methods and procedures – personal affairs information – information obtained in confidence – disclosure contrary to public interest

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.

I am satisfied the documents are exempt from release under sections 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1), 35(1)(b) and 30(1).

Given the Agency granted access to the documents in part in accordance with section 25, it remains practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the documents with exempt information deleted.

The effect of my decision is that no further information in the documents is to be released.

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

My reasons for decision follow.

#### **Joanne Kummrow**

**Public Access Deputy Commissioner** 

6 May 2022

## **Reasons for Decision**

## **Background to review**

1. The Applicant made a request to the Agency seeking access to the following documents:

All documentation related to an investigation of threats to my safety/life

2. The Agency identified three documents<sup>1</sup> falling within the terms of the Applicant's request and refused access to the documents in part under sections 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1) and 35(1)(b). The Agency's decision letter sets out the reasons for its decision.

#### **Review application**

- 3. The Applicant sought review by the Information Commissioner under section 49A(1) of the Agency's decision to refuse access.
- 4. The Applicant seeks access to documents in relation to an investigation into the Applicant's welfare that involved police attending their home due to concerns about the Applicant's safety.
- 5. I have examined a copy of the documents subject to review.
- 6. The Applicant and the Agency were invited to make a written submission under section 49H(2) in relation to the review.
- 7. I have considered all communications and submissions 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.
- 10. In conducting a review under section 49F, section 49F requires that I make a new or 'fresh decision'. Therefore, my review does not involve determining whether the Agency's decision is correct, but requires my fresh decision to be the 'correct or preferable decision'. This involves ensuring my decision is correctly made under the FOI Act and any other applicable law in force at the time of my decision.

#### **Review of exemptions**

# Section 31(1)(c) – Disclosure of a confidential source of information in relation to the administration of the law

11. Section 31(1)(c) provides a document is exempt from release if its disclosure would, or would be reasonably likely to, disclose or enable a person to ascertain the identity of a confidential source of information in relation to the enforcement or administration of the law. The exemption under section 31(1)(c) is subject to other provisions in section 31, where they apply.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> During the review, the Agency advised its decision letter refers to five documents identified as relevant to the Applicant's request. However, this is an administrative error, and the correct number is three documents.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Drake v Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs (1979) 24 ALR 577 at 591.

- 12. Even in circumstances where information in a document maybe false or incorrect,<sup>3</sup> the information provided by a confidential source to an agency may still be exempt from release if it would disclose the identity of a confidential source.<sup>4</sup>
- 13. The exemption under section 31(1)(c) operates to protect the identity of an informer and has no application where the identity is known or can easily be ascertained independently of the document in question.
- 14. In XYZ v Victoria Police, Bell J held:

The purpose of the exemption in s 31(1)(c) is to preserve the anonymity of people who are confidential sources of information in relation to the enforcement or administration of the law. ...

This exemption protects the identity of confidential sources of information, not the identity of reluctant witnesses in legal proceedings, or the identity of such witnesses pending hearing.<sup>5</sup> Whether a person was a confidential source of information about the enforcement or administration of the law is a question of fact to be determined by reference to all of the circumstances.<sup>6</sup> The obligation to maintain confidentiality can be express or implied,<sup>7</sup> and may be inferred from the nature and contents of the document, as revealed by reading it.<sup>8</sup>

- 15. The Agency submits disclosure of certain information in the documents would be reasonably likely to disclose the identity a confidential source of information.
- 16. Having reviewed the documents, I accept certain information was provided to the Agency by an information source with an expectation of confidentiality and its disclosure would allow the Applicant to ascertain the identity of the confidential source.
- 17. The relevant information includes the name, address and contact information of the confidential source and other information that could be used to identify them. Accordingly, I am satisfied this information meets the requirements of section 31(1)(c) and is exempt from release.
- 18. However, I am satisfied certain information in Document 1 is not specific enough to allow the information source to be identified. As such, I am satisfied this information is not exempt under section 31(1)(c).
- 19. My decision in relation to section 31(1)(c) is set out in the Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1**.
- 20. Where I have determined information is not exempt from release under section 31(1)(c), I have considered the application of sections 30(1) and 35(1)(b) to this information, where relevant.

### Section 31(1)(d) – Disclosure of methods for preventing, detecting, investigating breaches of the law

- 21. Section 31(1)(d) provides a document is exempt if its disclosure would, or would be reasonably likely to, 'disclose methods or procedures for preventing, detecting, investigating, or dealing with matters arising out of, breaches or evasions of the law the disclosure of which would, or would be reasonably likely to, prejudice the effectiveness of those methods or procedures'. The exemption under section 31(1)(d) is subject to other provisions in section 31, where they apply.
- 22. Information in Document 1 recorded in relation to the Agency's broader police operations and procedures was exempted from release by the Agency under section 31(1)(d).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Richardson v Commissioner for Corporate Affairs (1987) 2 VAR 51 at 52-53.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Gathercole v Western Water (unreported, VCAT, Mattei M, 3 December 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Accident Compensation Commission v Croom [1991] VicRp 72; [1991] 2 VR 322, 329.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Re Solaci and Ombudsman (1987) 1 VAR 466, 469; Hayes v Secretary, Department of Social Security (1996) 43 ALD 783, 785

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Department of Health v Jephcott [1985] FCA 370; (1985) 8 FCR 85, 89-90.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid 89-90 at 91.

- 23. The exemptions in section 31(1) do not apply to widespread and well-known methods and procedures.<sup>9</sup>
- 24. Having reviewed the information exempted from release by the Agency, I am satisfied it discloses information about procedures implemented by police when investigating breaches or possible breaches of the law. Further, I am satisfied information about these procedures is not widely known to the public.
- 25. I have considered the likely effect disclosure of this information would have on the Agency's ability to carry out its law enforcement functions efficiently and effectively. In doing so, I have also taken into consideration the nature of release under the FOI Act, which does not place restrictions on an applicant's use or dissemination of documents obtained under FOI. I am satisfied disclosure of the document would be reasonably likely to undermine the effectiveness of those investigative methods and procedures in connection with its law enforcement functions.
- 26. Accordingly, I am satisfied the information exempted from release by the Agency is exempt under 31(1)(d).
- 27. My decision in relation to section 31(1)(d) is set out in the Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1**.

#### Section 33(1) – Documents affecting the personal privacy of third parties

- 28. 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 (a **third party**);<sup>10</sup> and
  - (b) such disclosure would be 'unreasonable'.

Do the documents contain personal affairs information of individuals other than the Applicant?

- 29. 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>11</sup>
- 30. A document will disclose a third party's personal affairs information if it is capable, either directly or indirectly, of identifying that person. As the nature of disclosure under the FOI Act is unrestricted and unconditional, this is to be interpreted by reference to the capacity of any member of the public to identify a third party.<sup>12</sup>
- 31. The documents contain information that could identify a police source. However, as I am satisfied this information is exempt from release under section 31(1)(c), it is not necessary for me to consider the application of section 33(1) to this information.
- 32. During the review, the Applicant advised they do not seek access to the address details of third parties. However, the documents contain other identifying information of third parties including their name and contact details. Accordingly, I am satisfied the documents contain the personal affairs information of third parties.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> XYZ v Victoria Police [2010] VCAT 255 at [177].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Sections 33(1) and 33(2).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Section 33(9).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> O'Sullivan v Department of Health and Community Services (No 2) [1995] 9 VAR 1 at [14]; Beauchamp v Department of Education [2006] VCAT 1653 at [42].

Would disclosure of the personal affairs information be unreasonable?

- 33. The concept of 'unreasonable disclosure' involves balancing the public interest in the disclosure of official information with the personal interest in privacy in the particular circumstances of a matter.
- 34. In *Victoria Police v Marke*,<sup>13</sup> the Victorian Court of Appeal held there is 'no absolute bar to providing access to documents which relate to the personal affairs of others'. Further, the exemption under section 33(1) 'arises only in cases of unreasonable disclosure' and '[w]hat amounts to an unreasonable disclosure of someone's personal affairs will necessarily vary from case to case'.<sup>14</sup> The Court further held, '[t]he protection of privacy, which lies at the heart of [section] 33(1), is an important right that the FOI Act properly protects. However, an individual's privacy can be invaded by a lesser or greater degree'.<sup>15</sup>
- 35. In determining whether disclosure of the personal affairs information would be unreasonable in the circumstances, I have considered the following factors:
  - (a) The nature of the personal affairs information and the circumstances in which it was obtained

The information was recorded in connection with the Agency's investigation of a report that the Applicant's safety was at risk. The personal affairs information was provided by the police source, the Applicant and Agency officers, however it relates to multiple other third parties who did not produce or provide the information.

Given the circumstances of the matter, I consider the information is personal and sensitive.

### (b) The Applicant's interest in the information

The FOI Act provides a general right of access that can be exercised by any person, regardless of their motive or purpose for seeking access to a document. However, the reasons why an applicant seeks access to a document is a relevant consideration in determining whether disclosure would be unreasonable under section 33(1).<sup>16</sup>

I accept the Applicant seeks access to further information held by the Agency to assist them in better understanding their interaction with police and determining if any further action is required to protect their personal safety.

I note the Agency released information to the Applicant confirming the status of the police investigation, as well as general information relating to the information source which provides details of why no further action was taken by police.

(c) Whether any public interest would be promoted by release of the personal affairs information

I acknowledge the Applicant's submission that they require access to further information to ensure their personal safety, and I consider protection of the community is a matter of public interest.

While I acknowledge the Applicant's strong interest in obtaining access to the requested documents, and the distress their involvement with police may have caused them, I must also take into account the public interest in protecting the personal privacy of third parties named in the document and the Agency's ability to investigate matters involving community safety.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> [2008] VSCA 218 at [76].

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid at [79].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Victoria Police v Marke [2008] VSCA 218 at [104].

Having considered the content and context of the documents, I am not satisfied any public interest would be promoted by release of the personal affairs information under the FOI Act.

### (d) The likelihood of disclosure of information, if released

The nature of disclosure under the FOI Act is unconditional and unrestricted, which means an applicant is free to disseminate widely or use a document as they choose once it is released.<sup>17</sup>

Accordingly, I have considered the likelihood of the personal affairs information in the document being disseminated, if disclosed, and the effects it broader disclosure would have on the privacy of the relevant third parties.

Based on the information before me, I understand the Applicant seeks access to this information for the purpose of obtaining an intervention order and this would involve disclosure of the information to the Magistrates' Court of Victoria.

# (e) Whether the individuals to whom the information relates object, or would be likely to object, to the release of the information

In determining whether disclosure of a document would involve the unreasonable disclosure of a third party's personal affairs information, an agency must notify that person an FOI request has been received for documents containing their personal information and seek their view as to whether disclosure of the document should occur.<sup>18</sup> However, this obligation does not arise in certain circumstances, including if it is not practicable to do so.<sup>19</sup>

The Agency determined it was not practicable to consult with the third parties however, given the sensitive nature of the information, I consider it reasonably likely that they would object to the release of the information.

(f) Whether disclosure of the information would or would be reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of any person<sup>20</sup>

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 consider whether the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, endanger the life or physical safety of any person.<sup>21</sup> On the information before me, I consider this is a relevant factor.

- 36. In weighing up the above factors, on balance, I am satisfied disclosure of the third parties' personal affairs information would be unreasonable in the circumstances.
- 37. My decision in relation to section 33(1) is outlined in the Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1**.

### Section 35(1)(b) – Information obtained in confidence

- 38. The Agency denied access to certain information in Document 1 under section 35(1)(b).
- 39. A document is exempt under section 35(1)(b) if two conditions are satisfied:

<sup>18</sup> Section 33(2B).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Ibid at [68].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Section 33(2C).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Section 33(2A).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Section 33(2A).

- (a) disclosure would divulge information or matter communicated in confidence by or on behalf of a person or a government to an agency or a Minister; and
- (b) disclosure would be contrary to the public interest as it would be reasonably likely to impair the ability of an agency or a Minister to obtain similar information in the future.

Was the information obtained in confidence?

- 40. Whether information communicated by an individual to an agency was communicated in confidence is a question of fact.<sup>22</sup>
- 41. It is necessary to consider the position from the perspective of the communicator, noting confidentiality can be expressed or implied from the circumstances of a matter.<sup>23</sup>
- 42. The Agency determined that it would be unreasonable to consult with the relevant third parties in relation to release of their personal affairs information.
- 43. I have considered the application of this provision to information where I have determined it is not exempt from release under section 31(1)(c). Given the content and context of the documents, I am satisfied all information recorded in the documents was provided in confidence given the nature of an interaction between the information source and an Agency officer.
- 44. However, certain information in the documents was produced by the Agency only. Therefore, I do not consider it was communicated in confidence by an information source to the Agency. Accordingly, I have considered the application of section 30(1) to this information below.

Would disclosure of the information be contrary to the public interest?

- 45. The second requirement under section 35(1)(b) requires me to consider whether the Agency would be impaired from obtaining similar information in the future if the confidential information in the document was to be disclosed under the FOI Act. This means, I must be satisfied if the confidential information in the document were to be disclosed, others in the position of the communicator would be likely not to provide similar information to the Agency in the future. The public interest test is section 35(1)(b) is narrow. The exemption will not be made out of an agency's impairment goes no further than showing potential communicators of the information may be less candid than they would otherwise have been.<sup>24</sup>
- 46. The Agency's ability to obtain information from an anonymous or confidential source relies on members of the public feeling comfortable and safe to provide information on a voluntary basis. In my view, the routine disclosure of such information through the FOI process would be likely to impact on the willingness of sources to provide information, and the amount of information and level of detail provided. This would impact the ability of the Agency to obtain similar information in the future.
- 47. While I acknowledge the Applicant's personal interest in seeking access to the document, I am satisfied there is a strong public interest in protecting the Agency's ability to obtain information from informants as it is critical to its ability to perform its law enforcement functions efficiently and effectively.
- 48. Accordingly, I am satisfied disclosure of the information in the documents, which is not exempt from release under section 31(1)(c) and records information that was obtained from an information source, would be contrary to the public interest as its disclosure under FOI would impair the Agency's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Ryder v Booth [1985] VR 869 at [883]; XYZ v Victoria Police [2010] VCAT 255 at [264].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> XYZ v Victoria Police [2010] VCAT 255 at [265].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Smeaton v Victorian WorkCover Authority [2012] VCAT 1549 at [69], approving Birnbauer v Inner and Eastern Health Care Network [1999] 16 VAR 9.

ability to obtain similar information in the future. Therefore, I am satisfied the document is exempt from release under section 35(1)(b).

49. The Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1** outlines my decision in relation to section 35(1)(b).

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

- 50. 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.
- 51. I must also be satisfied disclosure of this information would not be contrary to the public interest.

  This requires a 'process of the weighing against each other conflicting merits and demerits'. 25

Do the documents 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?

- 52. I have considered this section in relation to information which I do not consider is exempt under sections 31(1)(c) or 35(1)(b), given that it is not capable of identifying the information source and has not been obtained through the Agency's interactions with them.
- 53. I am satisfied the information exempted from release by the Agency is information in the nature of opinion and deliberation recorded by an Agency officer for the purpose of investigating concerns regarding the Applicant's personal safety.

Were the documents 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?

54. I am satisfied the information exempted by the Agency in the documents was provided in the course of, and for the purposes of, the deliberative processes associated with the Agency's functions in investigating breaches or possible breaches of the criminal law.

Would disclosure of the documents be contrary to the public interest?

- 55. In determining if release of a document would be contrary to the public interest, I must consider all relevant facts and circumstances remaining mindful the object of the FOI Act is to facilitate and promote the disclosure of information. In doing so, I have given weight to the following relevant factors:<sup>26</sup>
  - (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;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</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>26</sup> Hulls v Victorian Casino and Gambling Authority (1998) 12 VAR 483.

- (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;
- 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 process; and
- (f) 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.
- 56. The information records the opinions, observations, and preliminary conclusions of an Agency officer during a police investigation into an alleged criminal matter. I am of the view this information is sensitive in nature.
- 57. I acknowledge the proper and efficient investigation of a criminal matter requires police to be able to openly and freely communicate with other Agency officers to determine the most appropriate course of action prior to and during an investigation. I consider it is fundamental for a police officer to be able communicate with other officers in writing and to record in sufficient detail and with necessary rigor their professional views and opinions.
- 58. I note the Applicant's interest in the documents as an affected party and the impact disclosure of these documents may have on their understanding of their involvement in a police investigation and the Agency's decision not to pursue the investigation.
- 59. However, I consider there is a strong public interest in the Agency being able to obtain information as part of an investigation into a possible criminal offence and record information appropriate and necessary to the carrying out of the police officers' duties in this case. Having considered the information recorded in the documents, I do not consider its disclosure would serve a public interest.
- 60. My decision in relation to section 30(1) is outlined in the Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1**.

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

- 61. 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.
- 62. Determining what is 'practicable' requires consideration of the effort and editing involved in making the deletions 'from a resources point of view'<sup>27</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>28</sup>
- 63. I have considered the information the Agency deleted from the documents as irrelevant. I agree it falls outside the scope of the Applicant's request as it relates to activities of Agency officers unrelated to the Applicant.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</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>28</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].

64. I have considered the effect of deleting irrelevant and exempt information from the documents in accordance with section 25. I am satisfied it is practicable to delete this information as it would not require substantial time and effort and the edited documents would retain meaning.

#### Conclusion

- 65. On the information before me, I am satisfied certain documents are exempt from release under sections 30(1), 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1) and 35(1)(d).
- 66. As I am satisfied 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, access is granted in part.
- 67. The Schedule of Documents in **Annexure 1** sets out my decision in relation to each document.

### **Review rights**

- 68. If the Applicant is not satisfied with my decision, they are entitled to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (**VCAT**) for it to be reviewed.<sup>29</sup>
- 69. The Applicant may apply to VCAT for a review up to 60 days from the date they are given this Notice of Decision.<sup>30</sup>
- 70. 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.
- 71. 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>31</sup>

 $<sup>^{29}</sup>$  The Applicant in section 50(1)(b) and the Agency in section 50(3D).

<sup>30</sup> Section 52(5).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</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]	Information Report	4	Released in part  Sections 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1) and 35(1)(b)	Released in part  Sections 30(1), 31(1)(c), 31(1)(d), 33(1), 35(1)(b), 25  The document is to be released with information the Agency determined is irrelevant or exempt deleted in accordance with section 25.	Section 30(1): Certain information in the document is matter in the nature of opinion and recommendation of an Agency officer in the investigation of this matter. I am satisfied release of this information would be contrary to the public interest for the reasons outlined in my Notice of Decision above.  Section 31(1)(c): I am satisfied certain information in the document contains information obtained from a confidential source which would disclose or enable a third party to ascertain, the identity of a confidential source of information in relation to the administration of the law. I consider certain information could not be used to identify the source and as such it is not exempt under this provision.  Section 31(1)(d): I am satisfied the information exempted under this provision discloses Agency methods for investigating matters arising out of breaches of the law and disclose of this information would prejudice the enforcement of the law.  Section 33(1): The document contains the personal affairs information of

Schedule of Documents

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of pages	Agency Decision	OVIC Decision	OVIC Comments
						persons other than the Applicant. I am satisfied the disclosure of the personal affairs information the Agency determined is exempt under section 33(1) would be unreasonable to disclose for the reasons outlined above.  Section 35(1)(b): I am satisfied information directly obtained or noted from interactions with the source is material communicated in confidence and disclosure of this information would impair the Agency's future ability to obtain information from a confidential source for the reasons outlined above.  Section 25: I am satisfied the document contains information that is irrelevant to the request, being the information about other matters. I am satisfied it is practicable to provide the Applicant with an edited copy of the document with exempt and irrelevant information deleted in accordance with section 25.
2.	Various	Member's Notes	1	Released in part	Released in part	Section 31(1)(c): I am satisfied all
				Sections 31(1)(c), 33(1)	Sections 31(1)(c), 25  The document is to be released with information	information in the document contains information obtained from a confidential source which would disclose or enable a third party to ascertain, the identity of a

Document No.	Date of Document	Document Description	No. of pages	Agency Decision	OVIC Decision	OVIC Comments
					the Agency determined is irrelevant or exempt deleted in accordance with section 25.	confidential source of information in relation to the administration of the law.  Section 33(1): I have not considered the application of section 33(1) to this information as it is fully exempt under section 31(1)(c).
3.	Various	Member's Notes	5	Released in part  Sections 31(1)(c), 33(1)	Released in part  Sections 31(1)(c), 33(1), 25  The document is to be released with information the Agency determined is irrelevant or exempt deleted in accordance with section 25.	Section 31(1)(c): I am satisfied all information in the document contains information obtained from a confidential source which would disclose or enable a third party to ascertain, the identity of a confidential source of information in relation to the administration of the law.  Section 33(1): See comments for Document 1.