



Corporate Affairs

ABC Ultimo Centre 700 Harris Street Ultimo NSW 2007 GPO Box 9994 Sydney NSW 2001

Tel. +61 2 8333 5261 abc.net.au

Dear

FOI REQUEST - REFERENCE NUMBER 2015-018

I refer to my letter to you dated 1 June 2015 regarding your request for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act):

- Documents relating to approved requests by ABC TV presenters to do paid celebrity speaking/master of ceremonies work between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2014, including documents that contain information about the client, the location of the function, and the amount paid to the ABC TV presenter.
- 2. Documents relating to breaches of the ABC Code of Conduct by any ABC employee, where that breach has occurred while undertaking outside work, and where the breach finding occurred between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2014.

In that letter I provided you with notice in accordance with s24AB of the FOI Act of my intention to refuse access to documents on the basis of a practical refusal reason, and to initiate a consultation period to enable you to revise your request so that the practical refusal reason no longer exists. The practical refusal reason was that the work required to process the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the ABC's resources from its other operations.

I note that you replied to that letter by email dated 15 June 2015 in which you revised your request to the following documents:

Documents relating to breaches of the ABC Code of Conduct by any ABC employee, where that breach has occurred while undertaking outside work, and where the breach finding occurred between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2014.

For the reasons outlined in my letter of 1 June, I am not able to easily identify the specific employees who have undertaken "outside work" during a particular timeframe. Further, I have been informed that the ABC does not maintain a central database of documents relating to findings of misconduct by employees, including findings that an employee has

breached the ABC Conflict of Interest Policy or ABC Values and Standards of Workplace Behaviour (which together replace the former ABC Code of Conduct). In order to identify whether the documents you have described exist, it would be necessary to search through the personnel files of every ABC employee.

Having regard to the above, I am satisfied that the practical refusal reason referred to in my letter dated 1 June 2015 still exists. Access is therefore refused under s.24(1)(b) of the FOI Act.

If you are dissatisfied with this decision you can apply for Internal or Information Commissioner (IC) Review. You do not have to apply for Internal Review before seeking IC Review. Information about your review rights is attached.

Yours sincerely



Judith Maude Head, Corporate Governance