

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

## Corporate Affairs

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By email:

## Dear

## FOI REQUEST - REFERENCE NUMBER 2013-043

I refer to your email of 12 October 2013 which I accepted as a request for access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act):

- policies and/or procedures the ABC has in place to ensure the transparency of political commentators and their relationships to political parties and lobby groups exists when they appear on ABC news or current affairs programs be they on television, radio, print or online.
- policies and/or procedures the ABC has in place to manage potential or actual conflicts-ofinterest regarding the appearance of political commentators on ABC news or current affairs programs - be they on television, radio, print or online.

I am authorised by the Managing Director under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests made under that Act. Following is my decision in relation to your request.

## Locating and identifying documents

I have taken reasonable steps to identify and locate all relevant documents. My search for these documents involved consulting with the following relevant people:

- Head of Policy and Staff Development in the News division;
- Head of Current Affairs in the News division;
- Head of Industry Policy and Strategy in the Radio division;
- Editor, *The Drum* in the Innovation division.

I requested that searches be conducted of all hard and soft copy records for documents which fall within the scope of your request.

As a result of those searches, I am satisfied that the *ABC Editorial Policies* and associated Guidance Notes are the only documents which fall within the scope of your request. Those documents are

publicly available on the ABC's website here: <u>http://about.abc.net.au/how-the-abc-is-run/what-guides-us/our-editorial-policies/</u>. No other relevant documents exist.

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

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Judith Maude Head, Corporate Governance Direct line 02 8333 5316