8 November 2013



Australian Broadcasting Corporation

Corporate Affairs

ABC Ultimo Centre 700 Harris Street Ultimo NSW 2007

GPO Box 9994 Sydney NSW 2001

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By email:

Dear

FOI REQUEST - REFERENCE NUMBER 2013-042

I refer to your request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) in your email of 10 October 2013. You sought access to the following documents:

"all documents relating to the internal review by ABC TV and ABC News of editorial policies and guidelines following publication in *The Australian* [of] a series of articles about exposure given to Lexus, Nokia, Volvo, Peugeot, NAB and the golfer Adam Scott".

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 contacting the following relevant staff:

- Head of Strategy and Governance in the Television division;
- Manager of Content Governance in the Television division;
- Head of Policy and Staff Development in the News division;
- Head of Industry Policy and Strategy in the Radio division; and
- The Manager of Policy and Research in the ABC's Editorial Policies department.

I have been advised that no internal review of the *ABC Editorial Policies* or associated Guidance Notes has been conducted in the circumstances you have described. Accordingly, no documents exist relating to any such review.

I am aware that a briefing note was prepared regarding the appearance by Australian golfer Adam Scott in an episode of Australian Story following some criticism in the media. I have identified three documents relating to the preparation of that note. Although I do not consider that those documents fall within the scope of your request, I am willing to grant access to those documents by way of administrative release. Copies of the following three documents, with irrelevant material redacted, are attached:

| Document 1 | Email string with subject line "commercial references dated between 4-5 September 2013 |
|------------|--|
| Document 2 | Email string with subject line "Adam Scott logo" dated 25 September 2013 |
| Document 3 | Briefing note titled "Commercial References in News" dated 27 September 2013. |

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