



**Statement of reasons made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982***

**Decision and reason for decision of  
Simon Atkinson, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Strategy & Coordination**

---

**Applicant:**

**Decision date: 11 July 2013**

**FOI reference number: 12-26**

**Documents: preparatory notes for Senate Estimates hearings for staff of the  
Department for appearances on 30/05/2013**

**Contents**

Summary .....	2
Authority to make this decision .....	2
Background .....	2
Documents subject to this request .....	2
Decision.....	2
Reasons for decision .....	2
Your rights of review.....	2

## Summary

1. I have made a decision to release the document subject to your request in full.

## Authority to make this decision

2. I, Simon Atkinson, First Assistant Secretary, Regional Strategy & Coordination, am an officer authorised by the Secretary of the Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport to make decisions about access to documents in the possession of the Department in accordance with Section 23(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (the FOI Act).

## Background

3. On 31 May 2013 you made a request for access to documents in the possession of the Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development, Local Government, Arts and Sports (the Department). Your request sought access to:

*'preparatory notes for Senate Estimates hearings for staff of the Department for appearances on 30/05/2013'*

On 6/06/2013 you confirmed that your request was limited to Senate Estimate Briefs pertaining to the Local Government Referendum.

## Documents subject to this request

4. The Department has undertaken a search of its records and has identified one document that falls within the scope of your request.
5. The document subject to your request is:

- **Constitutional Recognition of Local Government**

## Decision

6. I have made a decision to release the document subject to your request in full. The document is attached.

## Your rights of review

7. If you disagree with your FOI decision, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed. As the initial decision period has ended you can ask for an external review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).
8. The Information Commissioner is an independent office holder who can review the decisions of agencies and ministers under the FOI Act. The Information Commissioner also investigates complaints about agency actions under the FOI Act. However, if you are complaining that the Department's decision is wrong, it will be treated as an application for a review. You do not need to seek an internal review from the Department before seeking an external review from the Information Commissioner. However, going through the Department's internal review process

gives the Department the opportunity to reconsider its initial decision, and your needs may be met more quickly without undergoing an external review process. The Information Commissioner's review is free. You must apply to the Information Commissioner within 60 days of being given notice of the decision. You can ask the Information Commissioner for an extension of time to apply, and this may be granted if the Information Commissioner considers it is reasonable in the circumstances.

You must apply in writing and you can lodge your application in one of the following ways:

**Online:** [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au)

**Post:** GPO Box 2999

Canberra ACT 2601

**Fax:** +61 2 9284 9666

**Email:** [enquiries@oaic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@oaic.gov.au)

**In person:** Level

25 National Circuit

Forrest, ACT; or at

Level 8, Piccadilly Tower

133 Castlereagh Street

Sydney, NSW

More information about Information Commissioner Reviews is available from  
[http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/FOI\\_fact\\_sheet12\\_your\\_review\\_rights.html](http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/FOI_fact_sheet12_your_review_rights.html).



Simon Atkinson

First Assistant Secretary

Regional Strategy & Coordination

// July 2013