

NOTICE OF FILING

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Details of Filing

Document Lodged: Concise Statement
File Number: VID519/2021
File Title: SENATOR REX PATRICK v AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION
COMMISSIONER
Registry: VICTORIA REGISTRY - FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA



Dated: 1/11/2021 7:46:00 PM AEDT

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sia Lagos'.

Registrar

Important Information

As required by the Court's Rules, this Notice has been inserted as the first page of the document which has been accepted for electronic filing. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties.

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Concise Statement in Response

No. VID519 of 2021

Federal Court of Australia
District Registry: Victoria
Division: General

Senator Rex Patrick
Applicant

Australian Information Commissioner
Respondent

A. Functions of the Information Commissioner

1. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) is established by s 5(1) of the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010* (Cth) (**AIC Act**). At all material times until 13 August 2021, the OAIC consisted of the Information Commissioner, who was also appointed as the Privacy Commissioner, and staff engaged in accordance with s 23 of the AIC Act. In the 2021-22 Budget, the Government announced its intention to appoint a Freedom of Information Commissioner (**FOI Commissioner**). Pending that appointment, an Acting FOI Commissioner was appointed on 13 August 2021 for a period of three months. The Information Commissioner is the Agency Head of the OAIC for the purpose of the *Public Service Act 1999* (Cth).
2. Pursuant to s 10 of the AIC Act, the Information Commissioner has the information commissioner functions (as defined in s 7), the freedom of information functions (as defined in s 8) and the privacy functions (as defined in s 9). The FOI Commissioner has the freedom of information functions, and may also perform the privacy functions: s 11(1) and (2) of the AIC Act. The Privacy Commissioner has the privacy functions and may also perform the freedom of information functions: s 12(1) and (2) of the AIC Act.
3. The FOI Regulatory Group assists the Information Commissioner and, since 13 August 2021, the acting FOI Commissioner, to perform the freedom of information functions, which includes reviewing decisions under Part VII of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**), promoting awareness and understanding of the FOI Act, assisting agencies

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under s 8E of the FOI Act to publish information in accordance with the information publication scheme, providing information, advice, assistance and training to any person or agency, issuing guidelines under s 93A of the FOI Act, making reports to the Minister about proposals for legislative change to the FOI Act, monitoring, investigating and reporting on compliance by agencies with the FOI Act, undertaking investigations under Part VIIB of the FOI Act and collecting information and statistics from agencies and Ministers.

4. The Information Commissioner may delegate her powers, except those identified in s 25 of the AIC Act. The function under s 55K of the FOI Act must be exercised by the Information Commissioner, the FOI Commissioner or the Privacy Commissioner.

B. Process for reviewing decisions under Pt VII of FOI Act

5. Part VII of the FOI Act provides for the merits review by the Information Commissioner (**IC review**) of, amongst other things, an access refusal decision (s 54L) and an access grant decision (s 54M). The Information Commissioner may conduct an IC review in whatever way the Information Commissioner considers appropriate (s 55(2)(a)), and must use as little formality and technicality as possible (s 55(4)(a)). The Freedom of Information **Guidelines** published by the Information Commissioner pursuant to s 93A of the FOI Act, as amended from time to time, outlines the IC review process. Pursuant to s 55 of the FOI Act, the Information Commissioner has directions in relation to the procedures to be followed in IC reviews.
6. After receiving an application for IC review pursuant to s 54N of the FOI Act, the Information Commissioner notifies the relevant agency or minister of the application (s 54Z). The agency or minister must notify an affected third party where an application is made for review of a decision to refuse access to a document to which a consultation requirement applies (s 54P). The third party has the right to be a party to the IC review.
7. Key features of the IC review process include:
 - (a) Intake and triage of applications, including an initial assessment as to whether the application is validly made, contains the necessary information and was lodged within time, and whether the application is related to other applications by virtue of the subject matter, access refusal reason or the documents at issue.
 - (b) In relation to an application for review of a 'deemed access refusal' decision, early intervention to obtain either a decision in relation to the FOI request or the documents at issue and submissions from the agency regarding the application.

- (c) Preliminary assessment of applications where a decision has been provided, including consideration of: (i) the complexity of the application, including the issues under review, the number of documents at issue, whether procedural steps may need to be undertaken in relation to third parties or as required by law in relation to applications involving claims of the cabinet exemption (s 34 of the FOI Act) or national security exemption (s 33 of the FOI Act); (ii) whether the application may be resolved through alternative dispute resolution methods; and (iii) whether an IC review should not be undertaken pursuant to s 54W of the FOI Act.
 - (d) If the preliminary assessment results in a decision to proceed with the IC review, the relevant agency is requested to provide the documents and submissions.
 - (e) Following review of the documents and/or submissions (which may include confidential submissions), a review adviser may: (i) form a preliminary view about the application and offer the agency an opportunity to provide further information or make a revised decision under s 55G of the FOI Act, or offer the applicant an opportunity to provide further information or to confirm whether they wish to proceed with the review; (ii) require the agency or minister to produce a document claimed to be exempt under s 55U of the FOI Act (where the claimed exemption relates to national security, Cabinet or Parliamentary Budget Office matters); (iii) seek evidence from the Inspector General of Intelligence and Security (**IGIS**) before deciding that a document is not exempt as required under s 55ZB of the FOI Act; or (iv) prepare a draft decision for consideration by the Information Commissioner or Acting FOI Commissioner.
8. These steps in paragraph 7(a)-(c) above often result in the early resolution of IC reviews without requiring a decision under s 55K of the FOI Act. The significant majority of IC review applications are finalised without a decision under s 55K (in 2020-21, 95% of IC reviews were finalised without a decision under s 55K). The scope and complexity of an IC review may change as the review progresses, including because the number of documents at issue changes, there is a change in the exemptions claimed or the basis for a claimed exemption. Further procedural fairness requirements are often triggered during the course of an IC review as a result of receipt of new information or change in the scope of the review or the exemption(s) claimed.
9. Section 54W of the FOI Act prescribes the circumstances in which the Information Commissioner may decide not to undertake an IC review, or not continue an IC review. The Guidelines have at all material times provided that: (a) it is intended that the Information Commissioner will resolve most applications; (b) circumstances in which the Information Commissioner may decide that it is desirable for the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (**AAT**)

to consider the ICC reviewable decision include: (i) that the IC review is linked to ongoing proceedings before the AAT or a court; (ii) that there is an apparent inconsistency between earlier IC review decisions and AAT decisions; (iii) the IC review decision is likely to be taken on appeal to the AAT on a disputed issue of fact; (iv) the FOI request under review is of a level of complexity that would be more appropriately handled through the procedures of the AAT; (v) (since February 2021) there may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest in the Information Commissioner undertaking the review; or (vi) where consideration by the AAT would further the objects of the FOI Act, particularly in relation to the performance and exercise of functions and powers given by the FOI Act to facilitate and promote public access to information, promptly and at the lowest reasonable cost.

C. Measures to increase efficiency of IC reviews

10. The number of IC reviews received annually by the OAIC has increased over time. Relevantly, in 2017-18 the OAIC received 801 applications, in 2018-19 the OAIC received 928 applications, in 2019-20 the OAIC received 1,066 applications, and in 2020-21 it received 1,224 applications. In response to the increasing number of applications, the OAIC has implemented various measures to maximise the efficiency of the IC review process, including: (a) batching similar cases for efficiency; (b) categorisation of cases according to complexity to determine the appropriate review path and allocation to an appropriate review adviser; (c) improvements to case management database workflows to assist review advisers to more efficiently progress IC reviews, FOI complaints and extension of time applications; (d) implementation of a project to specifically address a large number of IC reviews which related to the adequacy of searches (this cohort of cases being identified as a result of batching); (e) implementation of a process to obtain initial information from an agency in relation to applications for IC review of deemed refusal decisions; and (f) introduction of online forms for extension of time applications by agencies, reducing the need for OAIC staff to manually enter such information.
11. The OAIC's focus on the efficient resolution of IC review applications has enabled the OAIC to increase the number of IC reviews finalised annually, relevantly as follows: 515 IC review applications finalised in 2016-17; 610 IC review applications finalised in 2017-18; 659 IC review applications finalised in 2018-19; 829 IC review applications finalised in 2019-20; 1018 IC review applications finalised in 2020-21; and 284 IC review applications finalised in the first quarter of 2021-22. Despite the measures implemented by the OAIC, due to the increasing number of applications, the number of IC review applications that remain outstanding at the end of each financial year is continuing to increase.

D. Applicant's IC review applications

12. The procedural history for each of the Applicant's relevant IC review applications is outlined in Appendix A to this Concise Response. Subsequent to the filing the Amended Concise Statement and Amended Originating Application, a decision was made pursuant to s 55K of the FOI Act in relation to IC Review application MR20/00291 on 19 October 2021.
13. IC review applications MR19/00010, MR19/00437 and MR20/00054 involve claims that documents are exempt from access pursuant to s 33 of the FOI Act, on the basis that disclosure of the documents could reasonably be expected to cause damage to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth. Before determining that a document is not an exempt document under s 33, or determining that an agency grant access to a document without deletions, the Information Commissioner must request the IGIS to give evidence on, inter alia, the damage that would, or could reasonably be expected to be caused, to the security, defence or international relations of the Commonwealth if access to the document were granted: s 55ZB(1) and (2) of the FOI Act.
14. IC review applications MR19/00437, MR20/00176 and MR20/00209 involve receipt by the Information Commissioner of documents having a security classification that prevents them being stored on the OAIC's electronic case management system and hard-copies must be received and stored by the OAIC in accordance with Annexures A to C of the Protective Security Policy Framework published by the Attorney-General's Department. As a result of stay-at-home orders in effect in all or parts of Sydney at different times from March 2020 to 1 November 2021, there have been periods where OAIC staff have not been able to attend the OAIC office in Sydney to access documents relevant to the progress of the IC review applications identified above, which has impacted the progress of these applications. It is anticipated that restrictions on staff attending the OAIC's office in Sydney will continue to impact the progress of some applications until 1 December 2021.
15. In the course of progressing IC review application MR19/00010, issues have emerged that have required the Information Commissioner to afford one of the parties a further opportunity to make submissions in response to the new issue. In relation to each of the 23 IC review applications in Appendix A, there has been one or more extensions of time to provide documents or submissions granted by the Information Commissioner in response to a request by the agency.
16. Each of the 23 IC review applications in Appendix A has been assigned to a review adviser in the Significant and Systemic Reviews team (the **SSR Team**), which manages complex IC

review applications, including those involving claims of exemption pursuant to s 33 (documents affecting national security, defence or international relations) or s 34 of the FOI Act (cabinet documents). During the period from December 2018 to 1 November 2021, there has been between 3 to 5 full-time equivalent review advisers allocated to the SSR Team, with 8 review advisers leaving the SSR Team during that period, requiring reassignment of their reviews to other advisers. At any point in time, each review adviser will be managing approximately 20 IC reviews, with more than 200 reviews waiting to be allocated to a review adviser. The progress of IC review applications MR19/00010, MR19/00437, MR20/00054, MR20/00209, MR20/00544 and MR21/00059 has been impacted by the need to allocate the review to a different review adviser within the SSR Team following the resignation or transfer to another team within the OAIC of the review adviser that had been managing the review.

17. As at 1 November 2021, the Information Commissioner has not determined that she is satisfied that the interests of the administration of the FOI Act make it desirable that any of the 23 applications referred to in Annexure A to the Concise Statement be considered by the AAT.

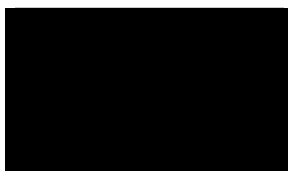
Conclusion

18. Having regard to the circumstances, there has been no unreasonable delay in determination of the 23 IC review applications. The application should be dismissed.

Certificate of lawyer

I, Andrew Riordan, certify to the Court that, in relation to the Response to the Concise Statement filed on behalf of the Respondent, the factual and legal material available to me at present provides a proper basis for each allegation in the pleading.

Date: 1 November 2021



Signed by Andrew Riordan
Lawyer for the Respondent

Appendix A – Summary of Applicant’s IC Review applications

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
1.	MR19/00010	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOD - Department of Defence	21-Dec-18	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 47(1)(b) (Documents disclosing trade secrets or commercially valuable information) • s 47G (Public interest conditional exemptions-business affairs) • s 33(a)(ii) (Documents affecting national defence) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 December 2018, the IC Review application was lodged by Applicant. • On 13 February 2019, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 26 February 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 6 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 2 April 2019. • On 2 April 2019, the Department provided its response (54Z Response) to the OAIC on a confidential basis. • On 18 November 2019, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response, the application was allocated to SSR Team. • On 24 December 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC requested further submissions by 24 January 2020 in relation to confidentiality claims; ○ the OAIC emailed the Applicant providing an update regarding the matter. • On 29 April 2020, the Department provided a non-confidential submission and subsequently withdrew its confidential submission. • On 20 May 2020, the OAIC provided the Department’s submissions to the Applicant. • On 2 July 2020, the Applicant corresponded with the OAIC about claims made in the Department’s 54Z Response. • On 10 July 2020, the OAIC requested from the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) evidence for the purposes of FOI Act, s 55ZB(2)(a)(i) [evidence of the damage that would, or could reasonably be expected to, be caused to the security of the Commonwealth if un-redacted access to a document were granted]. • On 19 October 2020, the IGIS sent its response to the OAIC. • On 26 October 2020, the OAIC advised the parties that a review was now able to proceed to a decision of the Information Commissioner under s 55K of the FOI Act and, treating the Applicant’s correspondence on 2 July 2020 as a submission, invited any final submissions to be provided by 29 October 2020. • After being granted extensions of time by the OAIC on 27 October, 19 November and 25 November 2020, the Department provided its final submissions to the OAIC on 3 December 2020. • On 19 March 2021, the application was re-allocated to a new review adviser due to changes in OAIC personnel. • On 1 September 2021, the OAIC provided the Applicant with the Department’s final submissions and requested his final submissions be provided by 15 September 2021. • After receiving an extension of time, the Applicant provided his submissions on 16 September 2021.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 17 September 2021, the OAIC emailed the Applicant noting that in light of “recent developments in relation to the Future Submarine Project”, the OAIC was in the process of conducting further inquiries with the Department. On 20 September 2021, the OAIC requested from the Department further submissions be made by 11 October 2021. On 12 October 2021, upon the Department’s application, OAIC granted an extension of time for it to provide its submissions by 13 October 2021. After providing the Department’s further submissions to the Applicant on 19 October 2021, the OAIC requested further submissions by the Applicant by 2 November 2021.
2.	MR19/00437	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOD - Department of Defence	28-Jun-19	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 33(a)(i) (the security of the Commonwealth) s 33(a)(ii) (the defence of the Commonwealth) s 33(a)(iii) (the international relations of the Commonwealth) s 34 (Cabinet documents) s 44C (Deliberative processes) s 47C (Public interest considerations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 28 June 2019, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 15 August 2019, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 23 August 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence, and advising that allocation of the matter “may take up to 6 months”; the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 13 September 2019. Upon requests from the Department, the OAIC granted the Department extensions of time on 17 September, 14 October and 28 October 2019 to submit its response (54Z Response) to the 54Z Notice. The deadline ultimately set was 12 November 2019. On 12 November 2019, the Department provided its 54Z Response and indicated that it had made a revised decision under s 55G of the FOI Act on 7 August 2019. On 22 November 2019, after being asked by the OAIC on 13 November whether he wished to withdraw the application or proceed in light of the Departments revised decision, the Applicant confirmed that he wished to proceed. On 3 December 2019, the OAIC notified the Department that the Applicant wished to proceed, and the OAIC issued a notice under FOI Act, s 55U (‘production of national security, Cabinet or Parliamentary Budget Office documents’) (55U Notice) regarding its claims that certain documents were exempt from being accessed, requesting a response by 17 December 2019. The Department provided its response (55U Response) to the 55U Notice. On 20 May 2020, the OAIC provided the Applicant with the Department’s 54Z and 55U Responses and invited a response by 10 June 2020 (ultimately provided on 29 June 2020 after extensions of time were granted). On 6 August 2020, the Department provided the OAIC and the Applicant with a revised decision under s 55G. On 24 August 2020 the Applicant confirmed he wished to proceed with his review despite the Department’s decision. On 20 September 2020, the OAIC notified the Department that the Applicant wished to proceed with the IC Review. Between November - December 2020, the OAIC corresponded with the Department to arrange the secure delivery of further material that was the subject of the Department’s claims of exemptions.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 19 March 2021, the application was re-allocated to a new review adviser due to changes in OAIC personnel. On 4 May 2021, the OAIC requested evidence from IGIS for the purposes of FOI Act, s 55ZB(2)(a)(i) [evidence of the damage that would, or could reasonably be expected to, be caused to the security of the Commonwealth if un-redacted access to a document were granted]. On 17 June 2021, the IGIS responded to the OAIC's request for evidence. On 14 July 2021, the OAIC provided the Applicant and the Department with the IGIS' response, and required final submissions by 28 July 2021. On 27 July 2021, the Applicant provided his final submissions to the OAIC, which included a submission to limit the scope of the FOI request. Between 27 July and 25 August 2021, the OAIC corresponded with the Department regarding the changes to the scope of the Applicant's FOI request, and arranging the secure delivery of material subject to the Department's claims of exemptions to be stored at the OAIC's office. Due to ongoing government restrictions impacting on the ability for OAIC personnel to attend the office, that material is yet to be reviewed.
3.	MR20/00054	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DFAT - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	22-Jan-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 33 (Documents affecting national security, defence or international relations) s 47E (Certain operations of agencies) s 47G (Public interest conditional exemptions – business) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 22 January 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 25 February 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 11 March 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence, and advising that allocation of the matter "may take up to 12 months"; the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 1 April 2020. On 16 April and 5 June 2020 the Department requested extensions of time to respond to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response). The second revised deadline for the 54Z Response was 26 June 2020. On 7 July and 27 August 2020 the Department corresponded with the OAIC regarding the timing of its 54Z Response. In October 2020, the OAIC corresponded with the Department regarding the status of this application and others. On 19 November 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Department indicated that it would commence the process of revising its original decision under s 55G, and aiming to finalise that decision in January 2021; the OAIC provided this information to the Applicant. On 16 August 2021, the application was allocated to a review adviser in the SSR Team. On 17 August 2021, the OAIC contacted the Department regarding the fact it had not received it revised s 55G decision and requested a response by 31 August 2021. Between 2 September and 1 October 2021, the OAIC and the Department corresponded regarding delays by the Department in finalising its revised decision under s 55G.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 7 October 2021, the OAIC advised the Applicant that the Department's processing of the revised decision had been impacted by the lockdown in the ACT. After being asked by the OAIC to give a timeframe for providing its revised decision, the Department sought (and the OAIC agreed on 27 October to provide) an extension of time to provide its revised decision by 3 November 2021.
4.	MR20/00176	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia AWM - Australian War Memorial	21-Feb-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 11B (Public interest exemptions- factors) s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 47C (Deliberative processes) s 47E (Certain operations of agencies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 21 February 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 15 April 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 16 April 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence; and the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) to the AWM, requesting a response by 7 May 2020. On 29 April 2020, the AWM sought to provide all information – including confidential submissions and classified documents (confidential documents) to be physically delivered to the OAIC – by 4 June 2020, citing staffing restrictions. The OAIC granted an extension of time on 6 May 2020 for the AWM to provide non-confidential documents and submissions by 18 May 2020, and the confidential information as soon as the AWM returned to normal working arrangements. On 13 May 2020, following a request by the OAIC, the AWM explained to the OAIC why it wished to make confidential submissions. On 18 May 2020, the AWM provided its open submissions to the OAIC as part of its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response). On 5 June 2020, the AWM provided its confidential submissions to the OAIC as part of its 54Z Response. Secure delivery by courier of the confidential documents to the OAIC's office had been arranged by the OAIC and AWM to take place on 10 June 2020. The AWM informed the OAIC on 11 June 2020 that delivery had not been effected by the courier. In July 2020, the AWM corresponded with the OAIC to arrange another attempt at secure delivery of the confidential documents. On 17 July 2020, the OAIC received the confidential documents. On 22 December 2020, the Applicant requested an update on the matter from the OAIC and on 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided the relevant update.
5.	MR20/00209	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia PMC - Department of the Prime	4-Mar-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 34(1) exemption (Cabinet Documents) s 34(4) (Cabinet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 4 March 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 20 April 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 11 May 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence,

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
		Minister and Cabinet		Documents)	<p>and advising that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 1 June 2020. • On 13 May 2020, the Department requested, and was granted by the OAIC, an extension of time to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) by 3 June 2020. • On 4 June 2020, the Department provided its 54Z Response. This response was a joint response with respect to this matter and other related matters (joint submissions). • Following review of the Department’s 54Z Response, on 13 September 2020, the OAIC allocated the matter to the SSR Team. • On 18 September 2020, the Department provided non-confidential (related open submissions) and confidential submissions for a related matter. • On 9 November 2020, the OAIC requested from the Department responses to a number of questions regarding the matter and the other related matters; on 19 November 2020, the OAIC requested the responses to those questions by 25 November 2020; • On 26 November 2020, the Department requested, and was granted by the OAIC, an extension of time to respond to the questions by 30 November 2020. • On 1 December 2020, the Department provided its responses to the relevant questions to the OAIC. • On 22 December 2020, the Applicant requested an update on the matter; on 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided the relevant update. • On 2 February 2021, the OAIC corresponded with the Department regarding proposed next steps in this matter and the related matters, including the provision of the joint submissions and the related open submissions to each of the applicants of the related matters. The OAIC raised a number of queries regarding these matters, including the application of the exemption under FOI Act, s 34 claimed by the Department. • After being granted an extension of time, the Department responded to the OAIC’s queries on or about 15 February 2021. • On 4 May 2021, the application was re-allocated to a new review adviser due to changes in OAIC personnel. • On 14 July 2021, OAIC sent to the Applicant the Department’s joint submissions and the related open submissions, and requested the Applicant’s submissions by 28 July 2021. • On 28 July 2021, the Applicant provided his submissions to the OAIC. • On 21 September 2021, the OAIC corresponded with the Department about the OAIC obtaining access to the confidential to progress the matter (as the OAIC had been unable to access the confidential submissions due to stay-at-home restrictions).

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
6.	MR20/00291	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	19-Mar-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 47B (Public interest conditional exemptions— Commonwealth-State relations etc.) • s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions— deliberative processes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 15 October 2021, a decision on this application was made under s 55K of the FOI Act. • On 19 October 2021, notification of the decision was issued to the parties, and the matter was finalised.
7.	MR20/00424	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	24-Apr-20	Application of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant material deleted) • s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions – deliberative processes) • s 34(1)(a) (Cabinet documents) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 April 2020, the Applicant lodged an IC Review application; on 22 April 2020, the Applicant lodged a revised IC Review application. • On or about 28 April 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 27 May 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ to the Department under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) requesting a response by 17 June 2020. • The OAIC granted extensions of time on 22 June, 3 July and 30 July 2020 for the Department to submit its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) (with the deadline for the response extended to 3 August 2020). • On 17 July 2020, when seeking an extension of the time, the Department advised the OAIC that consideration was being given to vary its decision under FOI Act, s 55G of the FOI Act. • On 13 August 2020, the Department advised the OAIC that it would be providing its 54Z Response “shortly”. • On 20 August 2020, the OAIC requested an update from the Department regarding when it would be providing its submissions. • On 24 August 2020, the Department provided its 54Z Response to the OAIC. • On 25 August 2020, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
8.	MR20/00544	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia Attorney-General	4-Jun-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 34 (Cabinet Documents) s 42 (Legal Professional Privilege) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 4 June 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant On 7 August 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 12 August 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 547 (54Z Notice) to the office of the Attorney General (AGO) requesting a response by 2 September 2020. On 20 August 2020, the OAIC requested that the Applicant provide his submissions by 21 September 2020. On 20 September 2020, the Applicant provided his submissions to the OAIC. After being granted extensions of time on 2 September and 24 September 2020, AGO provided its confidential 54Z Response submissions on 9 October 2020. On 13 October 2020, the OAIC requested a copy of the AGO’s non-confidential submissions be provided by 20 October 2020. After being granted an extension of time on 27 October 2020, the AGO provided a non-confidential copy of its original submissions and additional (non-confidential) submissions regarding the FOI Act, s 42 exemption (legal professional privilege) on 30 October 2020. On 2 November 2020, the OAIC provided the AGO’s submissions to the Applicant and requested “any final new” submissions by 20 November 2020; the Applicant provided his final submissions on 8 November 2020. Between 9 November – 23 December 2020, the OAIC provided the Applicant’s final submissions to the AGO, the AGO confirmed that it did not seek to make further submissions (and the OAIC informed the Applicant accordingly). On 4 May 2021, the application was re-allocated to a new review adviser due to changes in OAIC personnel. On 18 August 2021, the OAIC corresponded with the AGO requesting confirmation by 1 September 2021 as to whether the new Attorney-General (the Hon M Cash) was in possession of the single document identified within the scope of the FOI request; on 2 September 2021, the AGO advised the OAIC that the new Attorney-General was not in possession of the relevant document. On 24 September 2021, the OAIC requested from the AGO submissions as to whether the Attorney-General was in possession of the relevant material that is the subject of the IC Review; the submissions were due on 30 September 2021. After being granted an extension of time on 28 September 2021, the AGO provided its submissions on 7 October 2021.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
9.	MR20/00604	Senator Rex Patrick , Senator for South Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	24-Jun-20	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) • s 45 (Documents containing material obtained in confidence) • s 47(1)(b) (Documents disclosing commercially valuable information) • s 47G (Business Information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 25 June 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. • On 20 July 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 22 July 2020, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 12 August 2020. • After being granted an extension of time on 12 August 2020, the Department provided its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) to the OAIC on 31 August 2020. • On 25 September 2020, the OAIC issued a notice to the Department under FOI Act, s 55T (‘Information gathering powers—production of exempt documents generally’) (55T Notice). • On 12 October 2020, Department responded to the 55T Notice (55T Response). • On 12 October 2020, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response and 55T Response, the application was allocated to SSR Team. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update regarding the matter to the Applicant. • On 25 August 2021, the application was allocated to a review adviser within the SSR Team. • On 27 August 2021, the OAIC requested from the Department further submissions be submitted by 10 September 2021. • On 14 September 2021, the OAIC granted the Department an extension of time to provide its submissions to 5 October 2021 (on the basis that further third-party consultation was required by the Department).
10.	MR20/00610	Senator Rex Patrick , Senator for South Australia DOT - Department of the Treasury	25-Jun-20	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 45 (Material obtained in confidence) • s 47C (Deliberative processes] • s 47E(d) (Certain Operations of Agencies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 26 June 2020, the IC Application was lodged by the Applicant and the Applicant subsequently sent a copy of the original decision to the OAIC upon the OAIC’s request. • On 29 July 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 3 August 2020, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting information by 24 August 2020. • On 26 August 2020, the Department provided its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) on 26 August 2020. • On 28 August 2020, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team. • The Department provided further material to the OAIC on 30 October 2020. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update regarding the matter to the Applicant.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
11.	MR20/00612	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOT - Department of the Treasury	26-Jun-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 34(1) (Cabinet documents – general rules) • s 34(3) (Cabinet decisions or deliberations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 26 June 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. The Application referred to two FOI requests made to the Department. • On 29 June 2020, the OAIC advised the Applicant that the IC Review Application would be split into two separate matters (to address each of the FOI requests) with individual matter references (MR20/00612 and MR20/00615). • On 29 July 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 4 August 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 6 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 25 August 2020. • On 20 August 2020, the OAIC confirmed with the Applicant that his submissions were due on 14 September 2020. • On 31 August 2020, the OAIC granted an extension of time for the Department to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) for this application and related applications MR20/00613 and MR20/00615 by 8 September 2020. The OAIC also requested that the Department indicate in its submissions whether it would have objections to the matter (and the two other matters: MR20/00613 and MR20/00615) being finalised under s 54W(b) of the FOI Act to enable the Applicant to seek review in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. • The Department provided its 54Z Response on September 8 2020. • Upon review of the 54Z Response, on 10 September 2020, the application was allocated to the SSR Team. • On 14 September 2020, the Applicant provided his submissions to the OAIC. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update regarding the matter to the Applicant.
12.	MR20/00613	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOT - Department of the Treasury	26-Jun-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 34(1) (Cabinet documents – general rules) • s 34(3) (Cabinet decisions or deliberations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This application has been case-managed with applications MR20/00612 and MR20/00615. • On 26 June 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. • On 29 July 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 3 August 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting its response by 24 August 2020. • On 20 August 2020, the OAIC confirmed with the Applicant that his submissions were due on 31 August 2020. • After being granted two extensions of time on 31 August and 17 September 2020, the Department provided its response to 54Z Notice (54Z Response) on 29 September 2020. • In October 2020, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update regarding the matter to the Applicant.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
13.	MR20/00615	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOT - Department of the Treasury	26-Jun-20	Application of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 34(1) (Cabinet documents – general rules) • s 34(3) (Cabinet decisions or deliberations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 26 June 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. • On 29 July 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 4 August 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months” and requesting information by 25 August 2020; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 25 August 2020. • On 20 August 2020, the OAIC confirmed with the Applicant that his submissions were due on 7 September 2020. • On 31 August 2020, the OAIC granted an extension of time for the Department to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) for this application and related applications MR20/00613 and MR20/00615 by 8 September 2020. The OAIC also requested that the Department indicate in its submissions whether it would have objections to the matter (and the two other matters: MR20/00613 and MR20/00615) being finalised under s 54W(b) of the FOI Act to enable the Applicant to seek review in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal. • The Applicant provided his submissions to the OAIC on 7 September 2020. • The Department provided its 54Z Response on 8 September 2020. • On 10 September 2020, after a review of the Department’s 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update regarding the matter to the Applicant.
14.	MR20/00760	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	6-Aug-20	Application of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) • s 45 (Documents containing material obtained in confidence) • s 47(1)(b) (Documents disclosing commercially valuable information) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 6 August 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. • On 20 November 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 23 December: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; ○ the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 15 January 2021. • On 12 January 2021, the OAIC provided an update to the Applicant regarding the matter. • On 7 April 2021, the Department requested extensions of time to provide its material to the OAIC for multiple IC Review applications; with respect to MR20/00760, the Department sought an extension of time to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) by 16 June 2020. • On 16 April 2021, the Department notified the OAIC that it had sent notification to a third-party under FOI Act, s 54P (‘IC review applications—requirement to notify affected third parties’). • In response to a request by the OAIC, the Department made submissions on 20 April 2021 in support of its application for an extension of time. • After being granted an extension of time, the Department provided its 54Z Response to the OAIC on 2 July 2021. After the OAIC had difficulties accessing some of the material sent by the

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
					<p>Department on 2 July, the Department subsequently sent that material to the OAIC on 29 July 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 30 July 2021, after a review of the Department's 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team.
15.	MR20/00863	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DIIS - Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	14-Sep-20	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 42 (Documents subject to legal professional privilege) s 47F (Public interest conditional exemptions—personal privacy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 14 September 2020, the IC Review Application was lodged by the Applicant in respect of a deemed refusal decision by the Department. Between 15 – 16 September 2020, the OAIC made preliminary enquiries with the parties and sent a s 54V Notice to the Department requesting relevant information, explanations and a statement of reasons by 23 September 2020. After the OAIC made preliminary enquiries with the Department on 16 September 2020 (pursuant to FOI Act, s 54V) requiring an explanation with regards to the present status of the FOI request, on 28 September 2020, the Department provided to the OAIC its decision on the Applicant's FOI request. After the OAIC provided the Department's substantive decision to the Applicant on 30 September 2020 and requested confirmation as to whether the Applicant wished to proceed with the IC Review application, the Applicant confirmed on 1 October 2020 that he wished to proceed with the IC Review; the OAIC informed the Department of this on 2 October 2020. On 18 November 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 7 January 2021, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter "may take up to 12 months"; the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 21 January 2021. Having been granted an extension on 15 April 2021 to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) by 31 May 2021, the Department provided its submissions to the OAIC, with the Department on 1 June 2021 and a corrected version on 11 June 2021. On 23 June 2021, after a review of the Department's 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team. On 27 August 2021, the OAIC provided the Department's submissions to the Applicant and requested the Applicant to advise whether he wished to proceed with the IC Review and if so, to provide submissions by 10 September 2021. On 30 August 2021, the Applicant advised that he wished to proceed with the IC Review and, on 10 September 2021, provided his submissions to the OAIC. On 14 September 2021, the OAIC provided the Applicant's submissions to the Department and invited it to consider whether it would be appropriate to issue a revised decision under FOI Act, s 55G; the OAIC requested a response by 28 September 2021. On 28 September 2021, the Department provided the OAIC with submissions in response to the Applicant's 10 September 2021 submissions.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
16.	MR20/00922	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOH - Department of Health	24-Sep-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of s 47B (Public interest conditional exemptions – Commonwealth-State relations) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 24 September 2020, the IC Review Application was lodged with the OAIC; on 1 October 2020, the Applicant provided the OAIC with a copy of the Department's decision. On 19 October 2020, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 26 October 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter "may take up to 12 months"; the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 16 November 2020. On 5 November 2020, the Department provided the OAIC with its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response). On 6 November 2020, after a review of the Department's 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team.
17.	MR20/00923	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DIIS - Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	25-Sep-20	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 34(3) (Exemptions – disclosure of deliberation/ decision of Cabinet) s 42 (Documents subject to legal professional privilege) s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions— deliberative processes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 25 September 2020, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 11 February 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 1 May 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter "may take up to 12 months"; the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 24 May 2021. After obtaining an extension of time, the Department provided its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) on 28 May 2021. On 28 May 2021, the Department provided its 54Z Response and indicated to the OAIC that it would make a section 55G decision. Since 28 May 2021, the OAIC and the Department have exchanged correspondence regarding the Department's consideration of making a revised decision under FOI Act, s 55G (including the Department requesting multiple extensions of time from the OAIC to provide a revised decision due to delays in consultation with another Department).
18.	MR20/01189	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia PMC - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	30-Nov-20	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 34(3) (Exemptions – disclosure of deliberation/ decision of Cabinet) s 47E(d) (Public interest conditional exemption – certain operations of agencies: substantial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 30 November 2020 the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 5 March 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 3 May 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter "may take up to 12 months"; the OAIC sent a 'Notice of IC review and request for documents' under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 24 May 2021. On 1 June 2021, the Department provided its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response). On 2 June 2021, after a review of the Department's 54Z Response, the application was allocated to the SSR Team and allocated to a review adviser within the SSR Team on 25 August 2021.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
				adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of an agency)	
19.	MR21/00059	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia PMC - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	21-Jan-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of s 34(3) (Exemptions – disclosure of deliberation/ decision of Cabinet) 	<p>The OAIC Resolve record identifies that the FOI request that is the subject of this Application, is similar to FOI request for application MR20/00394. The Department has confirmed that the submissions made in respect of MR20/00394 should apply to this Application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 21 January 2021, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 11 February 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 16 July 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process would commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months”; the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ under FOI Act s 54Z (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 6 August 2021. In that notice, the OAIC noted that the subject of this IC Review application is the same document sought in a separate IC Review application (which does not involve the Applicant) (Separate Application). The OAIC requested the Department confirm if they wish to rely on their submissions in the Separate Application. On 9 August 2021, the Department confirmed with the OAIC that the Department’s position was that the submissions made in respect of the Separate Application should apply to this application. After the OAIC followed up with the Department seeking its response to address outstanding matters from the 54Z Notice (54Z Response), the Department provided its 54Z Response on 27 September 2021.
20.	MR21/00144	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOD - Department of Defence	15 February 2021	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions— deliberative processes) s 47E(d) (Public interest conditional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 15 February 2021, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 22 March 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 18 August 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months” and requested a response to the matters raised in the notice by 8 September 2021; and the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 8 September 2021. On 30 August 2021, the Applicant corresponded with the OAIC regarding the timetable for submissions in cases MR21/00144, MR21/00340 and MR21/00422 (proposing that submissions for MR21/00144 be due on 6 September 2021). On 31 August 2021, the OAIC indicated to the Applicant that it agreed with the proposed deadlines. On 6 September 2021, the Applicant provided his submissions to the OAIC.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
				exemptions-certain operations of agencies)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On or about 15 September 2021, after being granted an extension of time by the OAIC to provide its response to the 54Z Notice, the Department provided its response to the OAIC.
21.	MR21/00340	Senator Rex Patrick , Senator for South Australia PMC - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet	13-Apr-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions—deliberative processes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 13 April 2021, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On or around 16 April 2021, the Department issued to the Applicant its substantive decision on the Applicant’s FOI request. On 19 April 2021, the OAIC indicated to the Applicant that it understood that the Department had provided the Applicant with the substantive decision on his FOI request and asked the Applicant to confirm if he intended to proceed with the IC Review of the Department’s decision and requested a response by 26 April 2021. On 27 April 2021, the Applicant provided the OAIC with a copy of the Department’s decision and requested an IC Review the Department’s decision. On 12 May 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 18 August 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months” and requested a response to the matters raised in the notice by 8 September 2021; and; the OAIC sent a ‘Notice of IC review and request for documents’ (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 8 September 2021. On 30 August 2021, the Applicant corresponded with the OAIC regarding the timetable for submissions in cases MR21/00144, MR21/00340 and MR21/00422 (proposing that submissions for MR21/00340 be due on 13 September 2021). On 31 August 2021, the OAIC indicated to the Applicant that it agreed with the proposed deadlines. On 13 September 2021, after being granted an extension of time by the OAIC on 30 August 2021, the Applicant provided his submissions. The OAIC granted extensions of time to the Department to provide its response to the 54Z Notice on 13 September, 27 September and 30 September 2021. The deadline ultimately set was 28 October 2021. On 30 September 2021, the OAIC issued to the Department a notice pursuant to FOI Act, s 55T (‘Information gathering powers—production of exempt documents generally’).
22.	MR21/00422	Senator Rex Patrick , Senator for South Australia DOH - Department of Health	7-May-21	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> s 22 (Access to edited copies with exempt or irrelevant matter deleted) s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions – deliberative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 7 May 2021, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. On 12 May 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. On 18 August 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that allocation of the matter “may take up to 12 months” and requested a response to the matters raised in the notice by 8 September 2021; the OAIC sent a “Notice of IC review and request for documents” under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 8 September 2021. On 30 August 2021, the Applicant corresponded with the OAIC regarding the timetable for

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
				<p>processes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 47E (Public interest conditional exemptions – certain operations of agencies – adverse effect on the management or assessment of personnel) • s 47F (Public interest conditional exemptions – personal privacy) • s 47G (Public interest conditional exemptions – business) 	<p>submissions in cases MR21/00144, MR21/00340 and MR21/00422 (proposing that submissions for MR21/00422 be due on 20 September 2021). On 31 August 2021, the OAIC indicated to the Applicant that it agreed with the proposed deadlines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 31 August 2021, the OAIC granted the Department an extension of time for it to provide its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) by 22 September 2021. • The Applicant filed his submissions on 21 September 2021. • On 13 September 2021, the Department requested the OAIC provide the Applicant's submission and for the OAIC to advise of a new date for the Department to provide its 54Z Response. • On 24 September 2021, the OAIC provided the Applicant's submissions to the Department and requested the Department provide its 54Z Response by 15 October 2021. • The Department submitted its 54Z Response on 12 October 2021. • On 14 October 2021, after a review of the Department's 54Z Response, the application was allocated to SSR Team.
23.	MR21/00551	Senator Rex Patrick, Senator for South Australia DOH - Department of Health	21-Jun-21	<p>Application of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 45 (Public interest conditional exemptions – documents containing material obtained in confidence) • s 47 (Exemptions – documents containing trade secrets of commercially valuable information) • s 47C (Public interest conditional exemptions – deliberative processes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 21 June 2021, the IC Review application was lodged by the Applicant. • On 29 July 2021, the intake, triage and preliminary assessment process was completed. • On 18 August 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the OAIC sent a notice to the Applicant advising that the IC Review process will commence and that the matter was awaiting further consideration by a review adviser which could take "up to 12 months"; and ○ the OAIC sent a 'Notice to IRC review and request for documents' under s 54Z of FOI Act (54Z Notice) to the Department requesting a response by 8 September 2021. • On 31 August 2021, the OAIC granted an extension of time for the Department to submit its response to the 54Z Notice (54Z Response) by 22 September 2021 (rather than 8 September 2021). • On 13 September 2021, the Department requested the OAIC provide the Applicant's submission and for the OAIC to advise of a new date for the Department to provide its 54Z Response.

	Case Number	Title	Date of lodgement	Issues under FOI Act	Status
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s 47E (Public interest conditional exemptions – certain operations of agencies) • s 47F (Public interest conditional exemption – personal privacy) • s 47G (Public interest conditional exemptions – business) 	