
Subject: Your recent correspondence with the Department of Communities and Justice and valid acknowledgement letter - our ref: GIPA24/4341

Date: Wednesday, 30 October 2024 at 3:55:44 pm Australian Eastern Daylight Time

From: Information and Privacy

To: Telina Webb

Attachments: Webb - Acknowledgement letter.pdf, 29 June 2023 - Telina Webb.pdf

Dear Ms Webb,

Your recent correspondence with the Department of Communities and Justice

We refer to your application for access to information under the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009 (GIPA Act)*, received by the Department of Communities and Justice (Department) on 25 October 2024. Please see **attached** valid acknowledgement letter for this application (our reference: GIPA24/4341).

In relation to your recent correspondence with the Department dated 25 October 2024, we advise you that:

- a. You are blocked from communicating with the Open Government, Information and Privacy Unit (OGIP) using email, as your correspondence has caused significant levels of stress and is perceived by OGIP staff to be defamatory, threatening, insulting, misleading and abusive.
- b. The only exception to point (b) is when you copy the Department in email correspondence required to be sent in the course of proceedings (as required by orders, directions or procedural requirements). I also note your current submissions for 2024/00361128 are due on 8 November 2024, which we will accept by email. There will be no other exceptions.

Under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)*, I am obliged to appropriately respond to stress-related issues experienced by staff. Staff within OGIP have indicated that they perceive the content of your communications to be defamatory, threatening, insulting, misleading, abusive, and this has resulted in significant levels of stress.

Specifically, I note your recent access application dated 25 October 2024, includes the following false and defamatory statements we perceive to be made about OGIP staff:

- *'providing false and misleading information about unsuspecting members of the public'*
- *circulating 'false and misleading documents...to third party agencies and the NSW judiciary for the purposes of influencing key decision makers...'*
- *'initiat[ing] and implement[ing] agreements with interested third parties to falsely apply public interest considerations against disclosure of open access information mandated from release'*
- *'concealing and protecting information and influencing key decision makers.'*

There is no factual basis on which to make such statements against OGIP staff members, and this correspondence has caused staff members significant levels of stress.

On 29 June 2023, the Department sent you a letter (**attached**), asking you to cease any communication which is not respectful or likely to cause undue distress to staff. In that letter, we advised you that if you continue to behave in this manner, we would impose limits on your contact by restricting your contact to 'writing only by post'.

I am now compelled to take the next step and promptly deal with this issue to ensure the health and safety of OGIP staff is appropriately managed.

I advise that from today, any further email or electronic communication from you will be blocked and deleted without being read (with the exception to the above at point (b)), and correspondence will only be accepted by staff of OGIP if it is delivered by Australia Post.

This includes any emails or electronic communication sent to other employees/business units within the Department that are aimed to circumvent the restriction. This restriction will apply to any email or electronic communications sent by any person we believe may be acting in concert with you.

I confirm that postal address for correspondence is:
Open Government, Information and Privacy, DCJ Legal
Locked Bag 5000
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

This restriction applies to any email contact from you with OGIP and any email inbox monitored by staff of OGIP. This includes, but is not limited to:

- infoandprivacy@dcj.nsw.gov.au
- infoandprivacy@justice.nsw.gov.au

The restriction we now place on your email/electronic contact applies to emails received from info@nswfreedomofinformation.net and any other email address you have used previously or may create in future.

The limitation on your access to emailing staff of OGIP will remain in effect for 12 months, at which time I will assess whether there is any demonstrated need to extend it for a further period.

Yours sincerely,

Jodie Cobbin
Director
Open Government, Information and Privacy Legal
Law Reform and Legal Services Department
of Communities and Justice

DISCLAIMER: This email message, including any attachments, is intended for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is confidential, privileged and/or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this email in error you must not disclose or use the information in it. Please delete the email and any copies and notify the sender. Confidentiality or privilege are not waived or lost by reason of the mistaken delivery to you. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Department of Communities and Justice. The Department accepts no liability for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments and recommends that the recipient check this email and any attached files for the presence of viruses.