

Request for draft public consultation document

Legislation	Official Information Act 1982, s 9(2)(g)(i)
Agency	Minister of Transport
Ombudsman	David McGee
Case number(s)	291959
Date	February 2011

Only minor differences between draft and final consultation document—final consultation document was publicly available—release would not inhibit the free and frank expression of opinions necessary for the effective conduct of public affairs

In response to a request for information about the SuperGold Card review, the Minister of Transport withheld a draft public consultation document under section 9(2)(g)(i). The requester complained to the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman noted that the final public consultation document, with only minor wording changes from the withheld draft, was publicly available. In these circumstances, he was not persuaded that release would inhibit the free and frank expression of opinions necessary for the effective conduct of public affairs.

After considering the Ombudsman's comments, the Minister agreed to release the draft public consultation document and the complaint was resolved.

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