



Attorney General's Office

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Mr Manson
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11 August 2017

RE: Complaint re Delay Responding to Application for Consent to Prosecute

Dear Mr Manson,

Thank you for your note to the Attorney General's Office dated 24 July 2017, detailing your complaint regarding the time taken in responding to an application for consent to prosecute.

The length of time required to consider an application depends on the nature and complexity of the case and the quality of the application received. Between February 2016 and June 2016 five requests with attached documentation were received from different PICAT groups requesting consent to prosecute. These were acknowledged by AGO and work undertaken to review the information provided. PICAT groups were notified of legal issues within their submissions by AGO in August, with PICAT groups subsequently submitting a new application for consent in October 2016. In November 2016 AGO wrote to you requesting a draft indictment and confirmation that you did not intend to send any more applications, evidence or other material. Further information was provided by PICAT in January with the required indictment received by AGO in February 2017.

The voluminous information has been reviewed in the intervening months and AGO recently communicated to you that it currently anticipates providing a response in September. In the interim, AGO has responded to requests for updates from PICAT. It is acknowledged that during parts of the process of gaining the required information for the application AGO have been reactive in communicating updates to PICAT groups. From May 2017, AGO have looked to address this through monthly updates on progress.

Having reviewed the action taken by AGO in relation to the requests for consent to prosecute, I confirm that action taken has been conducted within a timescale that reflects the volume of material to be considered. When making the determination on the application, as you make reference to in your communication of 24 July 2017, the Attorney General acts independently of government when taking a decision whether to consent to a prosecution.

Yours sincerely,

Nicol Harlow
Head of Business Support

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