

## Questions at estimates on FOI 3538

**Q: Who was the decision maker for FOI 3538 (emails produced between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 between the Department of Health and the Commonwealth Health Minister's office mentioning any and/or all of the following terms mRNA; and/or RNA.)**

A: The decision maker was Ms Perdi Mitchell, Acting First Assistant Secretary, Vaccine Operations & Data Division.

This FOI decision is currently the subject of an internal review request, with a decision due on 10 April 2022.

## **Q Why was the document not released ?**

A The decision maker granted partial access to the one document found to be within the scope of the request. The decision maker found the following conditional exemptions were relevant:

- Section 47F – disclosure would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about a person
- Section 47C – disclosure would disclose deliberative matter
- Section 47G – disclosure would or could reasonably be expected to, have an unreasonable adverse effect on an individual's business or professional affairs or on the organisation's commercial, business or financial affairs or could reasonably be expected to prejudice the future supply of information to the Commonwealth or an agency for the purpose of a law of the Commonwealth or of matters administered by an agency.

In considering whether to apply each conditional exemption, the decision maker weighed factors relevant to whether access to the material would on balance, be contrary to the public interest and was satisfied that the disclosure of the (redacted) material would be contrary to the public interest.