

Email Correspondence

Email dated 20/11/2012

Dear Bill,

This is indeed disappointing to hear that mismanagement and inefficiency has deprived all candidates of this important opportunity. I have not heard anything from GRM since I submitted my full application in August. I would not be surprised if other candidates are still waiting to hear something from them.

I hope to hear something soon regarding my Endeavour application before the end of this month.

Please feel free to raise it in your presentation before the Parliamentary Committee. I think there are important lessons to be learnt for future programs.

Best regards,

Niamat

Note for file

On 11 July 2012, Mr Peter Mulligan of GRM International telephoned me from Kabul in Afghanistan. In response to my e-mailed query about the application by Mr Niamatullah Ibrahim for an Australian Leadership Award (ALA), he stated that the information provided to Mr Ibrahim that he had not received an ALA interview because he had not met the required threshold of leadership achievement was incorrect. Four applicants had had similar names, and Mr Ibrahim had inadvertently been given information relating to another of the applicants. Mr Mulligan stated: "I have made a mistake". He wished to make it plain that this was not a result of corruption.

Mr Mulligan went on to say that the reason why Mr Ibrahim's application had been rejected was that his degree certificate and academic record had not been attested by the Ministry of Higher Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul.

I pointed out to Mr Mulligan that in March I had spoken to him about this very point, to enquire whether such attestation was necessary, and that he had responded that it was not. Mr Mulligan then responded: "I acknowledge that I did give you that advice".

My recollection, which I shared with Mr Mulligan during the conversation, was that I had sent him an e-mail in March setting out the advice that I had forwarded to Mr Ibrahim after Mr Mulligan and I had spoken. After completing my conversation with Mr Mulligan on 11 July, I retrieved the earlier e-mail dated 21 March 2012 that I had sent him, and re-dispatched it to him. That email is attached to this note. Further emails from 11-12 July 2012 are also attached.

13 July 2012

Dear Mr Mulligan,

Just after I rang off, I found the following email which I had sent to you on 21 March. I have noted your comments in our conversation today that 'I acknowledge that I did give you that advice',

Sincerely,

William Maley

Professor William Maley, AM FASSA
Director, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy
School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy

----- Original Message -----

Subject:Re: Application

Date:Wed, 21 Mar 2012 10:33:51 +1100

From:William Maley

To:Peter Mulligan

Dear Mr Mulligan,

Following our discussion, I passed on to Mr Niamatullah Ibrahimi, currently a short-term Visiting Fellow at the Free University of Berlin, that he was not required to have his University of London degree certificate and transcript certified by the Ministries of Higher Education and Foreign Affairs in Kabul in order to be able to lodge his application for an Australian Leadership Award to support his PhD studies at the ANU.

The ANU should be despatching its letter of offer of a place to Mr Ibrahimi by tomorrow. He is a very strong applicant indeed. As background, I'm attaching a reference for him which we received from former Foreign Minister Gareth Evans,

Sincerely,

William Maley

Professor William Maley, AM FASSA
Director, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy
School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy

Further emails

On 07/11/12, **Peter Mulligan**

Dear Professor Maley

Thank you for the email and I remember to conversation.

As we discussed I am working on a way forward to try to assist in this matter and can give no promises about the outcome of any action that may be taken and no undertaking that the decision will change

I am presenting the proposed course of action to AusAID in the morning.

I will let you know the outcome.

Once again I need time and would ask for you not the contact the applicant nor AusAID.

I will call in the afternoon your time and follow it up with an email.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Mulligan
Scholarships and Awards Manager

Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA) an AusAID Initiative
GRM International
Kabul | AFGHANISTAN

Email sent 11/07/2012:

Dear Mr Mulligan,

Thank you for your email. Tomorrow is Graduation Day, and I will therefore not be in my office in the afternoon, but I would be grateful if you brief me by email as to the developments. In the meantime I will not communicate with the applicant or with AusAID - although if I am dissatisfied at the end of the process, I would feel honour bound as one of Mr Ibrahim's referees to share my concerns with AusAID, and perhaps raise them also with the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee, which has asked me to make a submission to their inquiry into Australia's overseas development programs in Afghanistan,

Sincerely,

William Maley

Dear Professor Maley

I am working to ensure the best possible outcomes for the Australia Awards Program, for those who apply and those who become scholars.

I have shared this with you in confidence with you and whilst I am well aware that you have every right raise issues with AusAID and the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee and I would encourage you to do so; I work in an environment where there is corruption and threats all the time and it makes my job difficult

Officials here ask that consideration be given for this person or that person.

I gave no promise other than I would endeavour to assist in this matter which I am doing

I have corporate approval from my proposed course of action and I am waiting approval from AusAID.

If my propose course if action is accepted I undertake to ensure that your colleague is assess against the same criteria as other applicants

If the committee finds him suitable that he will enter the process but that does not mean he will be successful there are a number of other steps that he would need to complete successfully.

In relation at Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee I have also provided evidence and if you raise this matter with them so be it but there are much bigger issues for the committee to consider I would suggest.

Professor Maley I guess what I am saying is I will do what I can to assist within the confine of the requirement for the program and I will seek to do what is right.

I would encourage you to raise any issue with the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee that you believe will improve Australia's development program particularly in relation to education because I have keen professional and personal interest in education and its relationship to Australian Public Diplomacy.

As soon as I have answer I will let you know and I would like discuss this matter with.

I think we are on the same side I just need to work this through

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Mulligan
Scholarships and Awards Manager

Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA) an AusAID Initiative
GRM International
Kabul | AFGHANISTAN

Email sent 12/07/2012:

Dear My Mulligan,

Thank you for your email. Rest assured that I would not expect you to do anything other than what is proper in the circumstances. Mr Ibrahim's ALA application should succeed or fail on its merits. My concern is purely with defects in process that could result in its *not* being considered on its merits,

Sincerely,
William Maley

Subject: FW: Australian Leadership Award Application~ Mr Niamatullah Ibrahim
From: Niamatullah Ibrahim
Date: 10/07/12 5:08 AM
To: 'William Maley'

Dear Bill,

Below are some emails I exchanged with Peter Mulligan, DAFA Scholarships Manager in Kabul. It looks like they did not find me competitive with respect to experience and leadership. Next week, I will try to see him personally just to get to know him but will probably not discuss my application.

Best regards,

Niamat

From: Peter Mulligan
Sent: Sunday, July 08, 2012 3:54 PM
To: Niamatullah Ibrahim
Subject: RE: Australian Leadership Award Application~ Mr Niamatullah Ibrahim

Dear Mr Ibrahim

Thanks you for your email and I am happy to meet with you.

I am in all day meetings for the few days and I would be happy to make a time to meet.

Are you able to call me on Saturday to arrange a time please?

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Mulligan

Scholarships and Awards Manager

Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA) an AusAID Initiative

GRM International

Kabul | AFGHANISTAN

From: Niamatullah Ibrahimi

Sent: Sunday, 8 July 2012 3:47 PM

To: Peter Mulligan

Subject: Re: Australian Leadership Award Application~ Mr Niamatullah Ibrahimi

Dear Mr. Mulligan,

Thank you very much for responding to my email. I understand the number of applications were very high and of course respect your decision.

I am back in Kabul now and would be happy to meet up if you are interested (of course I will not bring up the issue of scholarship again).

Best regards,

Niamat

On 7 July 2012 09:10, Peter Mulligan ·

Dear Mr Ibrahimi

Thank you for your email and inquiry.

As you know the Australian Government offers only a limited number of Awards each year and the Awards are very competitive.

This year DAFA received some 860 applications for Australian Leadership Awards and 60 for 5 Awards

Today I have reviewed your original application form and found that compared to other applicants you were not competitive with respect to the experience required and leadership.

I would encourage you to reapply for an Award in 2013 and wish you the best of luck in such an endeavour.

Kind regards

Peter

Peter Mulligan

Scholarships and Awards Manager

Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA) an AusAID Initiative

GRM International

Kabul | AFGHANISTAN

To: Peter Mulligan
Subject: Australian Leadership Award Application

Dear Mr. Mulligan,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing this email to inquire about the status of my application for an Australian Leadership Award for a post-graduate study at the Australian National University. I am concluding a six-month research fellowship with the Free University in Berlin and will be back in Kabul in three days. My application, submitted in Kabul in March this year, was supported by Mr. Gareth Evans, Chancellor and Professor William Maley, Director of the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy of the Australian National University.

I understand it might be difficult for you and your team to respond to individual queries but I was wondering if you could let me know, 1) whether you received my application and 2) I would appreciate to know the reason for its rejection.

Niamatullah Ibrahim
Visiting Fellow, Centre for Development Studies
Institute of Geographical Sciences
Free University Berlin
Germany

Note for file

At 10.45 pm (Australian Eastern Summer Time) on 3 December 2012, I telephoned Mr Niamatullah Ibrahimi in Kabul. As of that time, he had received no indication in writing from any official Australian body as to the outcome of his Australian Leadership Award Scholarship application.

3 December 2012

Email Correspondence

On 07/12/12, **Niamatullah Ibrahim**

Dear Bill,

I just received a call from Peter Mulligan. It looks like I am going to have a formal interview on Saturday. I will let you know how it goes.

Best regards,
Niamat

-----Original Message-----

From: William Maley
Sent: Wednesday, July 11, 2012 6:41 AM
To: Niamatullah Ibrahim
Subject: In confidence: ALA

Dear Niamat,

I've just received the following from a senior AusAID official:

"I have requested GRM to provide detailed feedback to Mr Ibrahim. GRM has arranged a meeting with Mr Ibrahim on Saturday. Following the meeting and provision of detailed feedback, if we or Mr Ibrahim have any doubts about the selection process we will take appropriate steps to review it."

So please feel free after you see Peter Mulligan to convey any doubts that you might have to me, and I will forward them to AusAID here with a request that it review the selection process,

Best wishes,

Bill

Email dated 23/07/2012:

Dear Bill,

This morning, I was finally interviewed by the ALA selection panel (two Australians and three Afghans). Overall, I think it went well. They asked me general and sometimes very basic questions. For example, an Afghan member of the panel asked if I would approach members of my team in friendly or unfriendly manner. The other question was whether I would be interested to work for the Afghan government.

They me told I am the eleventh to be interviewed, which I assume is the total number of candidates shortlisted for 5 ALA positions. The result will be announced in September but soon they will send a list of candidates they recommend for the scholarship to Canberra.

Best regards,

Niamat

From: Maryam Sayed
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2012 9:36 AM
Cc: Peter Mulligan; Freshta Nehan; Mustafa Najib
Subject: ALA- Scholarship Application Form

Dear ALA Candidate,

Based on our phone conversation, I would like you to fill up the attached application form accordingly and send me back ASAP by 8:00 AM 1st August, 2012.

Kindly note the following points and send us all information which are required:

- Copies of your educational documents certified by MOFA/ Afghan consulate abroad
- Soft version of your up to date Resume
- All columns in application form are mandatory to be filled with accurate information
- The answers should not exceed more than 1000 word per question
- Initial all the pages of application
- Provide both soft and hard copies of the application

With Best Regards,

Maryam Sayed

Maryam Sayed
Australia Awards Officer
Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan (DAFA) an AusAID Initiative
GRM International

From: William Maley
Sent: Thursday, 15 November 2012 12:43 AM
To: Murray O'Hanlon
Cc: Craig Russell Hanks
Subject: RE: ALA Application [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mr O'Hanlon,

I was wondering if you can let me know when the results of the 2012 ALA Scholarship application round for Afghanistan are to be announced. As you will recall, I was a referee for an applicant, and it would be useful to know when we should plan to begin preparing for his possible arrival in the event that his application is successful,

Sincerely

William Maley

Professor William Maley, AM FASSA
Director, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy

Email dated 20/11/2012:

Dear Mr Maley,

First of all my apologies that someone from AusAID has not responded to you sooner regarding your query relating to the 2013 ALA scholarship application round. I have taken the time to confirm with our scholarships area, who run the ALA selection process, that the process has concluded and for this intake, no Afghan fellows were selected. I can also advise that Afghan candidates were notified of their unsuccessful applications in September by GRM (then managers of our Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan), who managed applications by Afghans on our behalf. As you are aware, the ALAs are, and are intended to be, a highly competitive process for an elite cohort. This, of course, does not preclude individuals from applying again in future.

...

regards

Paul Daniell

Director | Afghanistan Section | AusAID

From: William Maley
Sent: Tuesday, 20 November 2012 11:02 PM
To: Paul Daniell
Subject: Re: ALA Application [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mr Daniell,

Further to my earlier email, I received the following just now from Mr Niamatullah Ibrahim:

"I have not heard anything from GRM since I submitted my full application in August. I would not be surprised if other candidates are still waiting to hear something from them."

In the light of this, it might be useful for you to check whether GRM in fact made the notifications claimed. I would like to know when, and by what means, they claim to have notified Mr Ibrahim. Clearly Mr Ibrahim's time has been wasted by this scholarship round. So has mine,

Yours sincerely,

William Maley

Professor William Maley, AM FASSA
Director, Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy
School of Regulation, Justice and Diplomacy

Email dated 23/11/2012:

Dear Prof. Maley,

We spent the last two days seeking additional details regarding the ALA process run by our scholarships area, as well as seeking advice overnight from our staff and the managing contractor in Kabul regarding the advice that was provided to candidates regarding their applications.

As you may know, while AusAID officers at Post shortlist the best candidates to put forward for ALAs, the selection of those shortlisted in each country are considered on a global basis by an independent selection panel in Canberra. In this case, our senior executive officer in Afghanistan personally reviewed the Afghan applications. This review followed a first cull of applications by our managing contractor, based on fixed and objective criteria (eg meeting the specified English language proficiency). You may recall that Mr Niamatullah Ibrahim had not originally been shortlisted by the contractor for our officers' review, due to a technical reason relating to his application. When you queried with us that Mr Ibrahim had not passed through the first stage, we reviewed the circumstances and then included him as one of those our officer reviewed. He was one of the candidates we put forward to the independent panel for consideration.

This independent panel was chaired by a senior executive from our scholarships policy area, and included representatives from other government agencies. All candidates considered by the independent panel for ALAs had already been endorsed by senior AusAID staff from the various posts as well as having very strong applications, so the field is highly competitive. Notwithstanding this rigorous process, ALAs are well oversubscribed, with many more candidates than available places. Candidates are selected on merit, with no allocation to any particular theme or country. The independent selection panel determined that Mr Ibrahim was not among the select few to be offered a place for 2013.

We also followed-up overnight with our Development Assistance Facility for Afghanistan regarding advice to Mr Ibrahim about the status of his application. Our managing contractor has confirmed the names of those who were advised by letter in September that their applications had been unsuccessful. Although Mr Ibrahim should have been advised, he was not. We will rectify this ourselves immediately by contacting Mr Ibrahim directly to explain the situation. DAFA, managed by International Relief and Development (IRD) since 1 October, is responsible for administration and support to our Australia Awards program. Notwithstanding that we will contact Mr Ibrahim directly, we would encourage him to keep in touch with IRD about future scholarship opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Daniell

Director | Afghanistan Section | AusAID

Email sent 23/11/12

Dear Mr Daniell,

Thank you for your email. I would be interested in knowing who serve on the independent selection panel, both in terms of specific organisational affiliations and individual experience.

I hope that Mr Ibrahim will apply again, but I'd hesitate to press him - he has been comprehensively mucked around this time,

Sincerely,

William Maley

[No direct response received]

From: William Maley
Sent: Monday, 26 November 2012 6:55 PM
To: Paul Daniell
Subject: RE: ALA Application [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mr Daniell,

A further brief query in response to your email below. I note that the advice you had received from your scholarships area was that 'The independent selection panel determined that Mr Ibrahim was not among the select few to be offered a place for 2013'. The import of this is plainly that Mr Ibrahim's application received direct consideration by the panel.

However, I have just seen on the AusAID website the following: 'AusAID has commenced a procedural review into the Australia Awards program for Afghanistan. As a result, AusAID is temporarily suspending the mobilisation of further awardees to allow time for the review to be completed. Any updates will be posted on this website'.

I therefore seek clarification as to whether Mr Ibrahim's application came directly to the attention of the selection panel, or whether it fell victim to the blanket suspension. I need to know this so that I can give him useful feedback should he seek it. I would appreciate a response by the end of this week, since it may affect the content of my testimony on Tuesday 4 December to the Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee,

Sincerely,

William Maley

Dear Prof. Maley,

As advised, Mr Ibrahim was one of the Afghan candidates considered by the independent selection committee.

Sincerely,

Paul Daniell

Director | Afghanistan Section | AusAID



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AusAID has commenced a procedural review into the Australia Awards program for Afghanistan. As a result, AusAID is temporarily suspending the mobilisation of further awardees to allow time for the review to be completed. Any updates will be posted on this website.

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Subject: Hazaras
From: Michael Dwyer
Date: 3/12/12 11:24 PM
To: William Maley

Dear Professor Maley,

Re your enquiry about Dr Niamatullah Ibrahim, I confirm that he and Hurst have signed a contract for his forthcoming book on the Hazaras of Afghanistan, due for delivery in September 2013, of which I have already seen an early draft. Our intention is to publish in early 2014, in conjunction with OUP, New York, our co-publishing partner in the States, subject of course to peer review and Delegate approval.

Please don't hesitate to contact me further about this matter.

Attached is a copy of our agreement with Dr Ibrahim.

regards,
Michael

Michael Dwyer
(Managing Director)
C. Hurst & Co. (Publishers) Ltd.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT made this 15 June 2012 between
Dr Niamatullah Ibrahim,

hereafter called "the Author" which expression shall, where appropriate, include the Author's executors, administrators and assigns) of the one part and C. Hurst & Co. (Publishers) Ltd., 41 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PL (hereafter called "the Publishers" which expression shall, where appropriate, include the Publishers' successors in business) of the other part:

WHEREAS the Author has agreed to complete an as yet untitled manuscript entitled

"The Hazaras of Afghanistan"

consisting of c. 80,000 words (hereinafter called "the Work") it is mutually agreed between the parties hereto as follows:

1. DELIVERY OF COMPLETED WORK AND DATE OF PUBLICATION

The Author undertakes to deliver the Work to the Publisher as an email attachment by **30 September 2013**. The Publishers agree within eighteen months of the delivery of the completed typescript, unless otherwise mutually agreed, at their own risk and expense to produce and publish the Work, unless prevented by war, strikes or other circumstances beyond their control.

The Work will be co-published simultaneously in North America by Oxford University Press, New York, under its imprint, subject to successful peer review and approval by the Delegates of OUP, and will be published in e-book format by OUP New York within six months of its appearance as a printed book.

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Agreement between C. Hurst & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. and Niamatullah Ibrahim

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Agreement between C. Hurst & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. and Niamatullah Ibrahim

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Agreement between C. Hurst & Co. (Publishers) Ltd. and Niamatullah Ibrahim

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The Publishers shall be entitled not less than two years after first publication to sell any surplus stock as a remainder at the best price it will fetch but before doing so they shall offer such surplus stock to the Author at the remainder price, such offer to be accepted or rejected within one month from date of offer.

14. TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT

If (a) the Publishers fail to fulfil or comply with any of the provisions of this Agreement within one month after written notification from the Author or his/her representatives of such failure, or (b) an order is made or an effective resolution passed for the liquidation of the Publishers other than by a voluntary liquidation for the purpose of amalgamation or reconstruction, this Agreement shall automatically be at an end without prejudice to any claim which the Author may have for monies due.

15. ARBITRATION

If any difference shall arise between the Author and the Publishers concerning the interpretation of this Agreement or the rights and liabilities of the parties thereto, the same shall be referred to the arbitration of a person or persons agreed by both parties in accordance with the provisions of the arbitration legislation currently in force in the United Kingdom or any amending or substituted statute for the time being in force.

16. PROCEEDINGS

If the Publishers consider that the copyright of the work has been infringed they shall be free to take whatever steps they may consider necessary to regularise the matter, and if they desire to take proceedings they shall, on giving the Author an undertaking to pay all costs and expenses and to indemnify the Author against all liability for costs, be entitled to use the Author's name as a party to such proceedings, but at the same time to control, settle or compromise as they think fit. The Publishers shall, after deducting all costs and expenses, pay to the Author one half of any profits or damages that may be recovered in respect of any infringement of the copyright.

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Author/Professor Niamatullah Ibrahim

For and on behalf of the Publishers
Mr Michael Dwyer

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