

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

From: [Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 3:35 PM
To: 'Renwick, Robin'
Subject: RE: Scoping Study Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Robin,

Many thanks for turning this around so quickly and taking the time to chat this morning re the process.

No doubt I will be in touch in due course and I look forward to working with you throughout.

Regards,

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

From: Renwick, Robin [<mailto:Robin.Renwick@finance.gov.au>]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 3:16 PM
To: [Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]
Subject: FW: Scoping Study Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed letter to Australian hearing. Some suggestions are marked.

Happy to discuss.

Regards

Robin

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 11:41 AM
To: Renwick, Robin
Subject: RE: Scoping Study Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Robin,

Many thanks for the information. I have attached the draft letter and would appreciate a check on the content so we don't mislead Australian Hearing.

It is planned at the moment for correspondence to flow to AH from the Minister to the Chair and the attached letter from Jonathan Hutson to the Managing Director, Bill Davidson.

I understand that Bill has been eager to get a point of contact in Finance but we are keeping him 'under control at this stage'.

Will give you a ring shortly.

Thanks,

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

From: Renwick, Robin [<mailto:Robin.Renwick@finance.gov.au>]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 11:12 AM

To: [Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

Subject: RE: Scoping Study Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

At the request of Ministers, this was all kept very tight and only a limited number of people in Finance were involved. As such, no one at the EL1/EL2 level has really been involved. I'm, therefore, the main contact in Finance until I am able to establish the teams to take the scoping studies forward. I'm happy to discuss the scoping studies with you and have a look at the draft letter. My direct line is 6215 2117.

Regards

Robin

UNCLASSIFIED

From: [Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]

Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 10:39 AM

To: Renwick, Robin

Subject: Scoping Study Contact [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hello Robin,

I understand from Jake Winter that you may have been involved in a meeting last November regarding privatisation/scoping study in the context of Australian Hearing.

Now the Budget has been announced I note that there is funding in 2014-15 for scoping studies including Australian Hearing.

Are you able to provide me with a contact at the EL1/EL2 level that I may be able to discuss aspects of the scoping study with? Also we have drafted a letter to Australian Hearing re the future and just wanted Finance's check on the content.

Any help would be appreciated.

Thanks

[Staff details – redacted for privacy reasons]



~~4 July 2014~~ 14 May 2014

Mr Bill Davidson
Managing Director
Australian Hearing
Australian Hearing Hub
Level 5, 16 University Avenue
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY NSW 2109

Dear Mr Davidson

Future of Australian Hearing

I write to advise you that the Australian Government has provided funds in the 2014-15 Budget papers to the Department of Finance (Finance) for a scoping study into future ownership options for Australian Hearing. The funds are provided for commitment in financial year 2014-15.

Generally, the privatisation process will progress in two phases. During the first phase Finance works with specialist advisers to undertake a scoping study to consider the objectives for privatisation. This will include an assessment of appropriate models to preserve existing community service obligations, and an examination of the regulatory and legislative requirements that will be needed to accommodate a sale. Ultimately, the study will assess the likely sale environment and seek to ascertain the optimum method and timing of sale. This phase may take 6 to 9 months. The outcome of the scoping studies announced in the Budget are to be considered in the context of the 2015-16 Budget.

Should a sale be agreed by the Government, then the second phase will normally proceed according to the findings of the scoping study and culminates with the sale process. This phase would also include any necessary steps to prepare the business for sale such as legislation if required, putting in place any necessary policy requirements and generally preparing the business for a sale. While a typical sale process itself could take 9 to 12 months, thereby leading to an indicative timeframe for privatisation of 15 to 21 months, the preparatory aspects can be add significantly to this, especially if time is needed for the passage of legislation.

You can expect that officials from Finance and the Department of Human Services (the department) ~~and Finance~~ will work closely with you and your senior executive to ensure a successful outcome. More specific details about the process will be provided once they become available.

During this challenging phase for Australian Hearing, I ask Australian Hearing to continue to deliver high quality hearing services to eligible Australian citizens and to maintain its commitment to excellence in service, clinical care and research. I also ask that you and your senior executive will ensure that Australian Hearing continues to embrace technology and promote services of a high standard and that service delivery continues to meet the needs of all eligible Australians.

The department looks forward to working with you closely on this important initiative. The contact in the department is Ms Sue Bird, General Manager, Whole of Government Coordination Division, on 02 6223 4148 or sue.bird@humanservices.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jonathan Hutson
A/g Deputy Secretary
Enabling Services