

Decision D0212000 – Published in note form only

Re Anselmo and Police Force of Western Australia [2000] WAICmr 21

Date of Decision: 31 March 2000

Freedom of Information Act 1992; clause 3(1)

The complainant applied to the agency for access to documents created as a result of a motor vehicle accident in which she had been one of the drivers involved. The requested documents included the police report of the accident and the statements of witnesses.

The agency gave the complainant access to edited copies of 6 documents from which exempt matter had been deleted. The matter deleted by the agency was the signatures of police officers, and names, addresses and phone numbers of third parties. The agency claimed that the deleted matter is exempt under clause 3(1) because it is personal information about third parties. The complainant sought access to unedited copies of the documents.

The Information Commissioner decided that the public interests in disclosure had been satisfied by the release to the complainant of the edited documents and that the public interest in maintaining the personal privacy of third parties was not outweighed by any other public interest. Therefore, the Information Commissioner found the deleted matter to be exempt under clause 3(1). The Information Commissioner confirmed the decision of the agency to refuse access to that matter.