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For reply please quote: *CALS/DS – TF/12/8444 – DOC/12/71183*

24 APR 2012

The Honourable Jarrod Bleijie MP
Attorney-General and
Minister for Justice
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear ~~Attorney-General~~ Jarrod,

As you are aware, the *Right to Information Act 2009* (RTI Act) and *Information Privacy Act 2009* (IP Act) provide persons with rights of access and amendment to certain documents of agencies and Ministers.

Under section 31 of the RTI Act and section 51 of the IP Act, Ministers may direct and authorise delegates to deal with applications made to ministerial offices. Similar provisions exist for departmental chief executives to delegate their decision making powers to officers within their agency, in relation to applications made to agencies.

Consistent with my election commitment to restore accountability in Government, I expect Ministers to delegate their decision making powers to Right to Information and Information Privacy officers within their departments, and not to ministerial staff within their offices. Additionally, the power to deal with Internal Reviews under the Acts should also be delegated to an appropriate departmental officer.

I consider that having these decisions made by independent public service officers will ensure that the government's administration of this scheme is, and is perceived to be, of the highest consistency, transparency and impartiality. Additionally, it is my expectation that ministerial staff will provide these departmental officers with their full cooperation and assistance in the processing of applications under the Acts.

I request that, as the Minister responsible for these Acts, you write to the remainder of the Cabinet advising them to delegate these powers accordingly.

Yours sincerely

CAMPBELL NEWMAN

Queensland Government