



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

File Number: 15/44812

7 April 2017

Ms Kellie Tranter
E-mail: mail@Kellietranterattorney.com.au

Dear Ms Tranter

Thank you for your e-mail of 17 January to the Foreign Minister, the Hon Julie Bishop MP, regarding Julian Assange. I have been asked to reply on the Minister's behalf.

I can confirm that the Minister both sought and received legal advice on the implications of the findings of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) in February 2016.

You also asked what action the Australian Government would be taking in response to the Working Group report. The Working Group opinion is directed at the United Kingdom and Sweden, not at Australia. Australia cannot intervene in the legal processes of another country, just as we would not countenance other states intervening in cases before Australian courts. I also note that the opinions of the working Group are not legally binding on states.

The Australian Government stands ready to provide Mr Assange with the same consular assistance it would give to any other Australian in the circumstances, should he request it, in accordance with the *Consular Services Charter* (attached).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Sarah Storey'.

Sarah Storey
Assistant Secretary
Consular Operations Branch