

AIC decision on appeal #71

CASE NUMBER AI6310 PROJECT PREPARATION AND SUPERVISION COSTS FOR ALL IDA AND IBRD PROJECTS (Decision dated November 19, 2019)

Summary of Decision

- As part of its due diligence on appeals, the Access to Information Committee (“AIC”) seeks the relevant business unit’s views on the possible disclosure of the requested information in light of the respective appeal. In this case, after extensive consultations with the relevant business unit, such unit decided, *on an exceptional basis*, to collate the requested information for purpose of making it publicly available; the requested information has since been made publicly available.
- **Public Interest.** Based on the above, consideration of the appeal asserting “public interest” was not required.

The Decision

Facts

1. On April 10, 2019, the requester submitted a request for “an updated version” of the “data on (i) project preparation costs and (ii) project supervision costs for all IDA and IBRD projects (excluding IBRD/IDA Guarantee projects) approved since 2000 (...) that includes projects approved in all subsequent fiscal years” (“Request”).
2. On May 31, 2019, the World Bank (“Bank”) denied public access to the information responsive to the Request based on the *Corporate Administrative Matters* and *Financial Information* exceptions under the *Bank Policy: Access to Information*, July 1, 2015, Catalogue No. EXC4.01-POL.01 (“AI Policy”).
3. On June 11, 2019, the requester filed an appeal challenging the Bank’s denial; the appeal was filed on the basis that there is a “public interest” case to override the AI Policy exceptions that restrict public access to the information (“Appeal”).

Findings and Related Decisions

4. In reviewing the Appeal in accordance with the AI Policy, the AIC sought the relevant business unit’s views on the possible disclosure of the requested information in light of the Appeal.
5. On November 19, 2019, the relevant business unit indicated that the requested information on project costs had been made publicly available. The information can be found at:

<http://pubdocs.worldbank.org/en/388061574192204260/2016-2019-Preparation-and-Supervision-Cost-Final-Nov-5-2019>

“Public Interest” case

6. Based on the above, consideration of the Appeal asserting a “public interest” was not required.