The Bylaws governing the DotConnectAfrica Trust (DCA) v. ICANN Independent Review Process (IRP) allow for the IRP Panel to agree that certain information can be held as confidential. (Bylaws, Art. IV, Section 3.20.) As agreed and approved by the IRP Panel, ICANN and DCA entered into a confidentiality agreement during the IRP. Pursuant to the agreement, the parties exchanged information that was to be maintained as confidential for purposes of the IRP. ICANN therefore had an affirmative obligation to redact the confidential information. The IRP Panel’s order confirming that agreement states:

Documents exchanged by the Parties may not be used for any purpose other than participating in the IRP; (2) documents exchanged by the Parties may not be publicly posted or disclosed in any manner; (3) reference to such documents or information from such documents in the Parties’ written submissions must be redacted prior to public posting.

The above agreement, however, does not in any way hinder the Panel’s ability in this IRP to refer to or cite any document and information it finds relevant and/or necessary for its determinations and declarations. The Parties themselves will ensure that any confidential information or document referred to or cited by the Panel in its determinations and declarations are appropriately redacted where necessary.


ICANN complied with the terms of that confidentiality agreement as ordered by the IRP Panel and redacted all non-public information provided by either party (or a third party) under the confidentiality agreement that was included in the posted documents and that the relevant party wished to remain confidential.