



12 July 2023
FOI ref: 3393

Foible

By email: foi+request-10413-bf9444d1@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Foible

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CONSULTATION

I refer to your request, dated 28 June 2023 to the Treasury, for the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*:

- *Details of meetings held between representatives of Treasury and representatives of Blockchain Australia since 1 June 2022 to the date of this application*
- *Briefing notes prepared for such meetings*
- *Correspondence and documents received by Treasury from Blockchain Australia since 1 June 2022 to the date of this application*
- *Copies of briefing notes prepared for the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer related to meetings with Blockchain Australia since 1 June 2022 to the date of this application*
- *Copies of briefing notes prepared for the Treasurer and/or Assistant Treasurer related to regulation of cryptocurrency since 1 June 2022 to the date of this application*

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act.

I am writing to tell you that I believe that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of this agency from its other operations due to its broad scope. This is called a 'practical refusal reason' under section 24AA of the FOI Act.

On this basis, I intend to refuse access to the documents you have requested. However, you have an opportunity to revise your request before I make a final decision. This is called a 'request consultation process' in section 24AB of the FOI Act.

You have **14 days** to respond to this notice in one of the ways set out below.

treasury.gov.au

@treasury_AU

@commonwealthtreasury

@australian-treasury

Langton Crescent
Parkes ACT 2600
Australia

P: +61 2 6263 2800

Why I intend to refuse your request

Treasury staff have spent over 12 hours undertaking initial searches of emails, electronic files and the Parliamentary Document Management System (PDMS) for documents within scope of your request.

Four staff members searched their emails used keyword searches. Over 300 emails plus attachments potentially within scope of your request were located. Over 200 additional documents were located in PDMS using keyword searches and an additional 10 documents were located in divisional files. A conservative estimate of the time it will take just to retrieve and review these documents, at 2 minutes per document, is around 16 hours. This estimate does not include email attachments or time already spent processing your request.

If we were to continue processing your request, documents identified as falling within scope of your request need to be scheduled, reviewed, consultations undertaken, a decision made on each document, a decision letter prepared and documents prepared for release. A conservative estimate of the time required to process documents located in the sample searches is over 50 hours. This is on top of the time already spent by staff.

I am satisfied processing your request as currently worded would place a significant burden on the limited number of Treasury staff and would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Treasury from its other operations.

Request consultation process

You have an opportunity to revise your request. This might mean narrowing the scope of the request to make it more manageable or explaining in more detail the documents you wish to access. This will assist the Treasury to focus on the documents that you are most interested in, saving time and resources.

Examples of possible revisions include:

- Restricting your request to either Blockchain Australia or to the regulation of cryptocurrency
- Limiting your request to one item and providing more specific details of the information sought for that item
- Specifying one document type, such as formal briefing to a Minister in PDMS
- Providing a much narrower date range

Multiple revision types will likely be needed to sufficiently refine the scope of your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we will recommence processing it.

Please note that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the 30 day time limit for processing your request.

What you need to do

You must contact us within 14 days from day after you receive this notice to:

- withdraw your request
- make a revised request
- tell us that you do not wish to revise your request.

You can contact us at by phone on (02) 6263 2800 or by email at FOI@treasury.gov.au. If we do not hear from you within the 14 days, your request will be taken to be withdrawn.

Questions?

The Treasury FOI team is available to help you during the consultation period by phone on (02) 6263 2800 or by email to FOI@treasury.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Trevor Power
First Assistant Secretary
Financial System Division