



10 May 2024  
FOI ref: 3545

Rob Stewart

By email: [foi+request-11129-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx](mailto:foi+request-11129-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx)

Dear Mr Stewart

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DECISION**

I refer to your request to Treasury on 18 February 2024 for access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*, to the following:

*I request the data referred to in this article - <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/long-covid-absolutely-smashed-the-labour-market-20220826-p5bd13> and comparable data up to this date, as well as the data source.*

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

#### **Decision**

The Treasury has identified two documents within scope of your request. Document 1 is Treasury Economic Note. Document 2 is an extract from an excel file created under section 17 of the FOI Act. Section 17 enables agencies to create a document in response to a request where no discrete document exists but the information is held in the agencies records management system. I have decided to release both documents in full. Irrelevant information in document 1 has been deleted under section 22 of the FOI Act. The documents for release are attached.

Further information regarding my decision is set out below.

#### **Material Considered**

The material to which I have had regard in making this decision includes the scope of the request and content of the documents subject to your request, third party consultation response, the relevant provisions in the FOI Act and Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (FOI Guidelines), and advice from subject matter experts within the Treasury.

***Reasons for decision***

Material deleted pursuant to Section 22

Section 22 of the FOI Act allows information that is irrelevant to your request to be deleted.

Document 1 contains the names and a direct phone number of government employees. We informed you in our acknowledgement email that it is our usual practice not to include the personal information of government employees and invited you to inform us if you did not agree with us processing the request on this basis. As you agreed with this request, the personal information of government employees has been deleted under section 22 of the FOI Act.

***Rights of Review***

A statement setting out your rights of review in this matter is attached.

***Disclosure Log***

The Treasury publishes documents disclosed in response to FOI requests on the Treasury website. This is consistent with the arrangements established by section 11C of the FOI Act. In this instance, I consider that the documents released to you are appropriate for publication on the Treasury's FOI disclosure log. This is consistent with the arrangements established by section 11C of the FOI Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. D'Arcy', with a horizontal line underneath.

Patrick D'Arcy  
Assistant Secretary  
Domestic, Demand, International and Trade Branch

## INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW

### 1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request.

An application for a review of the decision must be made in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you could set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

An application for a review of the decision should be emailed to [FOI@Treasury.gov.au](mailto:FOI@Treasury.gov.au).

**OR**

### 2. APPLICATION TO AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (INFORMATION COMMISSIONER) FOR REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

An application for review must be in writing and must:

- give details of how notices must be sent to you; and
- include a copy of the notice of decision.

You should send your application for review to:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**AND/OR**

### 3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Section 70 of the FOI Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be directed to the following address:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.