

Why I intend to refuse your request

The scope of your request is very broad and does not contain sufficient specificity for the Treasury to reasonably locate documents which are responsive to the request. The Review of the Reserve Bank of Australia received a total of 117 submissions. Keyword searches undertaken by just one Treasury staff member resulted in over 780 emails and over 440 sharepoint documents which would need to be individually reviewed to determine whether or not they meet the terms of your request. Extrapolating this figure to account for the other 17 members of staff who are likely to hold documents results in thousands of search results. These would need to be reviewed to determine if they meet the scope of your request and remove duplicate documents.

At a conservative estimate of one minute per document to assess for relevance, it would take hundreds of hours just to review the search results to identify in scope documents. This figure does not include time spent on processing your request to date, or the time required to undertake further searches of other Treasury systems. This estimate also does not include the time required to make a decision on any in scope documents, prepare documents for release (if any), and draft a statement of reasons.

Additional time will also be required to complete any third party consultations. As the scope of your request is seeking 'any documents (spreadsheets, summaries, quote documents etc.) from the Review of the Reserve Bank dealing with the submissions received by the Review', your request is likely to include personal and/or business information of the 117 parties which made submissions to the Review. Treasury would be required to consult many of these parties with a conservative estimate of two hours per consultation.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that this would place a significant burden on a 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:

- Confine the request to documents related to one or two particular submissions.
- Confine the request to a particular document type (e.g. Ministerial submissions, reports.)
- Provide more details about the documents you are seeking. For example, you could provide additional keywords which could be used to narrow the search results.

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

Riki Polygenis

Riki Polygenis
Assistant Secretary
Macroeconomic Analysis and Policy Division