



Mel Laraway
C/- Right to Know

By email: foi+request-1322-f630a52e@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Laraway

1. I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) received by the Department of Education and Training (the department) on 21 October 2015 in which you requested access to:

"...I seek The Number of Qualified Teachers Registered for Temporary Relief Teaching In South Australian Govt Schools. Particularly in The Adelaide Metropolitan Area.

I only want a NUMBER."

2. I also refer to my email of 26 October 2015 which advised you that the department does not have a role in administering state and territory schools, and invited you to withdraw your request on that basis. To date, we have not received a response from you.
3. I am authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act and my decision regarding your request and the reasons for my decision are set out below.

Decision on access to documents

4. I have decided to refuse your request pursuant to subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act on the basis that the documents you are requesting do not exist (that is, they are not in the possession of the department).

Reasons for decision

5. An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access under subsection 24A(1) of the FOI Act if:

(a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document; and

(b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:

- (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or*
- (ii) does not exist.*

6. I have decided to refuse your request pursuant to section 24A of the FOI Act on the basis that all reasonable searches have been undertaken to find documents falling within the scope of your request, and I am satisfied that those documents do not exist.
7. The evidence upon which I have based my decision is as follows:
 - your correspondence received on 21 October 2015;

- consultations with departmental officers as to the information held by the department and the searches undertaken by them;
 - the FOI Act; and
 - the Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner issued under section 93A of the FOI Act.
8. I am advised by departmental officers in the Data Production Team, National Data Reform Branch that the data requested is not part of regular collections conducted by the department, and that the department does not have any information in its possession within the scope of your request. To the extent that any information exists relating to the number of qualified teachers registered for relief teaching in South Australia, it may possibly be in the possession of the Department for Education and Child Development (South Australia).
9. Accordingly, I am satisfied that reasonable steps have been taken to determine whether relevant documents exist and such steps have failed to locate any documents falling within the scope of your request. I have therefore decided to refuse your request pursuant to subparagraph 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act on the basis that the documents you are seeking do not exist.
10. I have enclosed information about your rights of review under the FOI Act at **Attachment A**.
11. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at foi@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Sarah dell'Aquila
Government Lawyer
Schools, Youth, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch
People, Communication and Legal Group

12 November 2015

Your rights of review

Internal Review

Section 54 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) gives you the right to apply for an internal review of this decision. The review will be conducted by a different person to the person who made the original decision.

If you wish to seek an internal review of the decision you must apply for the review, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required for an application for internal review, but to assist the decision-maker you should clearly outline the grounds upon which you consider the decision should be reviewed.

Applications for internal review can be lodged in one of the following ways:

Post: The FOI Coordinator
Schools, Youth, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch
Location Code: C50MA10
GPO BOX 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: foi@education.gov.au

External Review by the Australian Information Commissioner

Section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply directly to the Australian Information Commissioner (AIC) to seek a review of this decision.

If you wish to have the decision reviewed by the AIC you must apply for the review, in writing or by using the online merits review form available on the AIC's website at www.oaic.gov.au, within 60 days of receipt of this letter. To assist the AIC your application should include a copy of this decision and your contact details. You should also clearly set out why you are objecting to the decision.

You can also complain to the AIC about how an agency handled an FOI request, or other actions the agency took under the FOI Act.

Applications for review or complaint can be lodged in one of the following ways:

Online: www.oaic.gov.au
Post: GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Fax: +61 2 9284 9666
Email: enquiries@oaic.gov.au
In person: Level 3, 175 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW 2000

For general enquiries, please call 1300 363 992 or +61 2 9284 9749 for international.

The Commonwealth Ombudsman

You can complain to the Commonwealth Ombudsman concerning action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act.

A complaint to the Commonwealth Ombudsman may be made orally or in writing. The Ombudsman may be contacted for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Australia on telephone 1300 362 072.