



# AFP

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Our Ref: LEX 4119

19 June 2025

M.M.

By email: [foi+request-13226-6bfb52cd@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-13226-6bfb52cd@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear M. M.

## Freedom of Information request – proposed practical refusal – request unclear

I refer to your request dated 27 May 2025, seeking access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act):

*I request access to any operational outlines, internal communications, or briefing documents from 2015 to 2024 that relate to joint task force operations involving the Australian Federal Police, QLD Police, and/or the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission that targeted methamphetamine use, distribution, or associated community surveillance.*

*This request includes references to community-based behavioural surveillance, intelligence-led targeting, and digital surveillance of persons not formally charged.*

I refer to correspondence sent to you on 12 June 2025 in which the Freedom of Information Team advised that the scope of your request for “operational outlines” and “briefing documents” is too broad and does not adequately identify the documents sought. The Freedom of Information team invited you to revise the scope of your request by 17 June 2025. To date, the Freedom of Information team have not received a response to this correspondence.

I believe that your request does not satisfy the requirement in paragraph 15(2)(b) (identification of documents) of the Act, which requires that the request provides such information concerning the document as is reasonably necessary to enable a responsible officer of the AFP to identify it. This is a ‘practical refusal reason’ (section 24AA of the Act).

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

### Why I intend to refuse the request

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because the current wording of your request is unclear as to what documents you are seeking and would involve broad searches to be completed that would likely return an extremely large number of results.

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#### Freedom of Information

/ GPO Box 401 Canberra City ACT 2601

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As a result of this lack of clarity or specificity, I have not been able to identify the documents that you seek access to. Without further information, searches cannot be conducted to ensure all relevant documents within the scope of your request are identified.

Requests for internal communications on a subject without specific email addresses, persons identified or a specific incident would require organisation wide email audits likely to return an extremely high number of results which would then need to be assessed individually for relevance to your scope.

As documents cannot be readily identified based on the terms of your current request for access, I am satisfied that your request does not satisfy the requirements of section 15(2)(b) of the Act.

## Consultation period

This consultation period is for **14 days**, commencing the day after the date of this notice. You have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following in writing:

1. withdraw the request, or
2. make a revised request, or
3. indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

## Potential revision of request

Reducing the scope of your access request may involve limiting your access request for a specific document(s). You may wish to consider revising your scope to the following (as an example):

*Concept of Operations documents for Joint Task Force Operations involving the AFP and QLD Police, or AFP and ACIC, targeting methamphetamine use or distribution between 2015 – 2024.*

Furthermore, to assist the Freedom of Information Team in conducting targeted searches for the documents you seek, you may wish to consider revising the scope of your request to a shorter timeframe.

This suggestion is offered as guidance only. Should you decide to revise your request, this does not guarantee that the practical refusal reason will no longer exist. If it does no longer exist, there is no guarantee that documents will be released without exemptions applied. These decisions are made when any documents that are subject of a request are assessed.

During the consultation period, you may contact me by email at [foi@afp.gov.au](mailto:foi@afp.gov.au). If you revise the request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal ground, I will recommence processing your request. 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 the request.

If you do not respond in one of the 3 ways indicated above during the consultation period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Yours sincerely,



Daniel (AFP 27683)  
Freedom of Information Officer  
Chief Counsel Portfolio

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