



Australian Government

Department of Communications and the Arts

Mr Benjamin Forster

By email: foi+request-1894-9e0684b2@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Forster

Freedom of Information Request No. 50-1516 – Notice under section 24AB

I refer to your email of 25 April 2016 to the Attorney-General's Department, subsequently transferred to the Department of Communications and the Arts (**Department**) on 29 April 2016, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* to:

- “ - The complete list of catalyst funding recipients to date; and*
- Documents detailing what activities were funded and how much public funding was requested and received by each recipient. ”*

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

I am writing to you pursuant to subsection 24AB(2) of the FOI Act to notify you of my intention to refuse your FOI request on the basis that I am satisfied that a practical refusal reason under subsection 24AA(1) exists. The potential scope of your FOI request means that the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Department from its other operations.

Before making a decision to refuse your request on the above grounds, I am required to consult with you and provide you with an opportunity to make submissions in support of your request, or to clarify or revise the scope of your request.

In order to provide you with information that would assist you to revise or withdraw your request, I have set out below some information about the nature of the practical difficulties associated with processing this request.

There are no practical difficulties associated with processing the first part of your request. Subsequent to you making your request this information was published on the Department's website and is available here: <http://arts.gov.au/catalyst/catalyst-recipients> (with information available by 'stream' by clicking on each of the three coloured boxes).

Please advise us whether you have any practical difficulties with accessing this material. Otherwise, we assume that this part of your request has been fully satisfied.

There are, however, practical difficulties in processing the second part of your request. The scope of the second part of your request would include the application form for each project, which would contain information about the activities funded and how much public funding was requested.

Each application form is a lengthy document, usually over 20 pages long. As 125 projects have been funded, processing your request would require review of over 2500 pages of material. Allowing for approximately five minutes of review time per page, hundreds of hours would be required to review, consider and redact this component of your request. Additionally, I expect substantial further time will be required to consult third parties on any exemption contentions they may wish to make about the documents, and to consider any submissions made. This is in addition to the time that will be required to consider and draft a final decision.

Any submissions should be sent in writing to the FOI Officer at foi@communications.gov.au or to the following address:

FOI Officer
Department of Communications and the Arts
GPO Box 2154
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You may also phone 02 6271 1277 to speak with the FOI Officer to discuss this matter.

You may consult with the FOI Officer and make submissions within 14 days from the date of this letter, i.e. 30 May 2016. Before the end of this period, you must do one of the following in writing:

- withdraw your request;
- make a revised request; or
- indicate that you do not wish to revise your request.

If you do not contact the FOI Officer or do one of the things mentioned above within this period, your FOI request will be taken to have been withdrawn and will not be dealt with any further.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Kerr
Legal Director
Office of the General Counsel
16 May 2016