



Our reference: RQ16/02271
TGA reference: FOI 222-1516

Ms Elizabeth Santolin
Freedom of Information Team
Reporting and Collaborative Services Section
Regulatory Engagement and Planning Branch
Therapeutic Goods Administration

Sent by email to: foi@health.gov.au

Dear Ms Santolin

Extension of time request under s 15AB

Thank you for your correspondence of 3 June 2016, in which you requested an extension of time for the Therapeutic Goods Administration (**TGA**) to process a request for access to documents. This request was made by Mr Stuart McCarthy on 4 May 2016 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the **FOI Act**).

The TGA has sought an extension until 4 July 2016 on the basis that the current processing period is insufficient to deal adequately with Mr McCarthy's request, because it is complex.

Decision

As a delegate of the acting Information Commissioner, I am authorised to make decisions on requests for extensions of time under s 15AB of the FOI Act.

I have decided to grant the TGA a 30-day extension of time under s 15AB (2) of the FOI Act to **4 July 2016**. In coming to this decision I have considered the following factors including:

- The subject matter of the documents covered by the scope of the request are complex in nature. In order to make a decision on the request, the TGA's FOI Team requires the assistance of an officer with the necessary technical specialisation when assessing the documents covered by the scope of the request.

Based on the information above, I am satisfied that Mr McCarthy's request is sufficiently complex to warrant an extension of 30 days. I am satisfied that granting the TGA an extension until 4 July 2016 will allow the agency to manage and produce a well-reasoned FOI decision. Accordingly, an extension of 30 days is appropriate in the circumstances.

A copy of this decision will be provided to Mr McCarthy.

Contact

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me on (02) 9284 9615 Tuesday and Wednesdays. Alternatively, I can be reached by email at Ben.Kirkwood@oaic.gov.au. In all correspondence please include reference number **RQ16/02271**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Kirkwood', is centered on the page.

Ben Kirkwood

Assistant Merit Review Officer
Dispute Resolution Branch

22 June 2016