



Australian Government
**Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science**

Our ref: IEF16/4241

GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Web: www.industry.gov.au
ABN: 74 599 608 295

Mr Patrick Conheady

By email: foi+request-2019-7f866df7@righttoknow.org.au

Freedom of Information Act – Notice of intention to refuse

Dear Mr Conheady

I refer to your request received by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) on 26 June 2016, in which you sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

“... the Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS) database containing the list of government licences, permits, approvals, registrations, codes of practice, standards and guidelines and associated data. This refers to the database used to provide data to the website at <https://ablis.business.gov.au>.”

Under subsection 24(1) of the FOI Act, I am satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to this request. The practical refusal reason is that the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the department from its other operations.

My view is based on an estimate that the ABLIS database is 20,849.50 MB, and includes approximately 17,149 documents and 83,485 Uniform Resource Identifiers. Furthermore, the data within the ABLIS database is owned by the State and Territory governments, meaning that consultation with at least 8 third parties will be required prior to considering possible release of the database.

In accordance with section 24(1)(a) and 24AB of the FOI Act, I am writing to provide you with written notice that I intend to refuse your request on the grounds that a practical refusal reason exists and to initiate a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act.

Request consultation process

Before I make a decision to refuse your request under section 24(1)(b) of the FOI Act, I would like to provide you with the opportunity to revise the scope of your request so that a ‘practical refusal reason’ no longer exists. Although it is your responsibility to suggest ways that your request may be revised and narrowed, you may consider limiting your request to particular topics or information relating to particular jurisdictions.

Should you wish to revise your request, you must do so **within 14 days** after the day you are given this notice (unless extended by agreement with the department). If you are unable to meet this deadline and wish to arrange an extension of time in which to consider this matter, or would like to discuss how you could best revise the scope of the request, please contact the FOI team per the details below.

Under subsection 24AB(6) of the FOI Act, you must, before the end of the 14-day consultation period, do one of the following by written notice to the department:

- a) withdraw the request;
- b) make a revised request; or
- c) indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

Please note that under subsection 24AB(7), the request is taken to have been withdrawn at the end of the 14 day consultation period if:

- (a) the applicant does not consult the contact person during the consultation period in accordance with this notice; or
- (b) the applicant does not do one of the things mentioned in subsection(6) before the end of the consultation period.

In accordance with subsection 24AB(8) of the FOI Act, the 14-day consultation period is to be disregarded in calculating the processing period for the request.

Your written response should be addressed to:

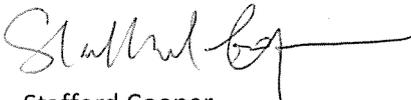
FOI Coordinator
Department of Industry, Innovation & Science
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Or by email to: FOI@industry.gov.au

Continuous updates to database

Your request for waiver of the FOI processing charges suggests you wish to incorporate the ABLIS data into non-government databases and applications. The information contained in the ABLIS database is constantly updated by the State and Territory governments. If the department were to provide a copy of the database as requested, the information provided would be out of date within days. You may wish to take this into account when considering whether to proceed with your FOI request.

Should you wish to discuss this matter, please contact the FOI team on (02) 6276 1597 or (02) 6102 8104.

Yours sincerely,



Stafford Cooper
A/g General Manager
Digital Strategy and Operations

6 July 2016