



Canberra Office

ABS House
45 Benjamin Way
Belconnen ACT 2617
Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au

ABN 26 331 428 522



FOI Ref No: 201617/08

Dear Mr Smith

I refer to your email dated 6 August 2016, and to your request for access to documents in the possession of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (the ABS) in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act). Your request sought access to the following:

- all relevant documents which an ABS employee would refer to in making a decision to take further action against non-compliant individuals. This includes all relevant policy, guidelines, or other such material, and any standard letters which are proposed to be sent to individuals at various stages of the follow-up process.
- also understand in the last census, approximately 100 persons were issued a fine for non compliance. I request a document that describes what happened here, for example, the general characteristics of those 100 persons, the total fines received, and other such general information.

I am writing to notify you of our intention to refuse your request, in its current form, in accordance with Section 24(1) of the FOI Act.

I am refusing this request because a practical refusal reason exists.

In accordance with Section 24AA of the FOI Act, the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations.

This view is based on information that I received from the business area that holds the documents. The business area estimates that it will take 15 hours of searching, generate 2340 document pages and require 195 hours of consideration. In addition, some of the documents you seek are likely to be subject to significant redaction, which would require 61 hours of preparation, due to the following applicable exemptions provided by the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (the FOI Act):

- section 42 – documents subject to legal professional privilege
- section 47C – documents would disclose deliberative processes
- section 47E – documents would or could be reasonably expected to have an adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of an agency
- section 47F – documents would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person

Please contact ABS FOI Officer Keelie Williams with a view to agreeing to one of the following options:

- a. withdrawing your request; or
- b. revising your request to narrow the scope.

Keelie Williams can be reached by email at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6252 7203.

Please note that in accordance with Section 24AB(2)(e) you have 14 days from the date of this email to contact the ABS regarding your request. If we do not hear from you in this time your request will be deemed to be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

Christine Williams

Program Manager

Governance & Parliamentary Liaison Branch

Australian Bureau of Statistics

1 September 2016