



**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: 201617/12

Dear Mr Crafti

### **RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your email of 9 August 2016 (Attachment A) to the FOI officer in which you sought access to the following under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act):

- the decision making process for blocking, or otherwise suppressing interactions with people on ABS-related pages, including Census Australia
- details of Facebook accounts that have been affected
- the content of the posts as it existed before it was deleted or hidden.

#### **Response to your request:**

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

The ABS has conducted an exhaustive search for documents relating to your request. I am now able to notify you that there is one document pertaining to your request which is released in full, at Attachment B.

In addition, we also have broader social media guidelines available on our websites:

- <http://help.census.abs.gov.au/news/interactive/social/guidelines#backtotop>
- <http://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/smguidelines?opendocument&navpos=650>

#### **Charges**

The ABS will not charge you any fees associated with processing this FOI request.

#### **Internal Review of the Decision**

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision by the ABS. Additionally, you may request a review of this decision by the Information Commissioner. Details of both procedures involved in an application to review a decision are set out at Attachment C.

Please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au) or on (02) 6252 7203 if you have any queries on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Williams', is positioned above the typed name.

Christine Williams  
Program Manager  
Governance & Parliamentary Liaison Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

8 September 2016

Dear Australian Bureau of Statistics,

I have recently been blocked from interacting on posts made by the Census Australia page on Facebook, and all my previous posts and likes have been deleted.

I think this is both a form of censorship, and an abridgement of by right to procedural fairness in the making of the decision to block me.

As such, I would like any documents that are related to the decision making process for blocking, or otherwise suppressing interactions with, people on ABS-related pages, including Census Australia, as well as details of Facebook accounts that have been affected, and the content of the posts as it existed before it was deleted or hidden.

Yours faithfully,

David Crafti



# CENSUS AUSTRALIA HOUSE RULES

Welcome to the Census Australia Facebook Page! This page is a space for our followers to learn more about and interact with the Australian Census of Population and Housing. The Census is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and provides important information about people and their housing. It helps to estimate Australia's population, which is used to distribute government funds and plan services for your community.

Our page welcomes comments, discussions, ideas and feedback. This is also a place to talk to us and ask us questions. To ensure this resource is enjoyed by all, we have outlined below our House Rules which we encourage you to read.

1. Be nice to each other (and us) stay on topic, respect each other's opinions and please, no bad language or rude gestures. Be good to your fellow followers.
2. Don't post anything that isn't yours to post.
3. It's ok to provide us with constructive criticism, but please don't post ongoing misinformation about the Census or the ABS.
4. Facebook has rules too, please abide by Facebook standards ([www.facebook.com/terms](http://www.facebook.com/terms)).
5. This page is for you! Use it, learn more, share things and get to know us.

Comments will be deleted if they break these rules, or Facebook's Terms of Use. Users who repeatedly break these rules may be banned from this page.

The Census Australia Facebook page will be monitored regularly, however we cannot guarantee responses to all posts or questions. If common themes are emerging we will do our best to address them. Alternatively, you might find the answer on our website, [www.census.abs.gov.au](http://www.census.abs.gov.au).

**Privacy**  
The ABS complies with the Privacy ACT 1988. For more information on the ABS Privacy Policy, visit [www.abs.gov.au/privacy](http://www.abs.gov.au/privacy).

**Contact Us**  
If you've got any feedback on these rules or our social media activity please contact us via our page. If you have any questions about the ABS or the Census, please contact the National Information Service on 1300 135 070 (9:00am to 5:00pm EST Monday to Friday).

## **INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW**

### **1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION**

If you disagree with our decision you have the right to apply for an internal review under section 54 of the FOI Act.

Application for a review of the decision must be made within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker were you to set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

Application for a review of the decision should be addressed to:

ABS FOI Contact Officer  
Policy, Legislation and Assurance Section  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Locked Bag 10  
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

**OR**

### **2. APPLICATION TO AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (INFORMATION COMMISSIONER) FOR REVIEW OF DECISION**

Section 54L of the Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

Applications for review must be in writing and must:

- give details of how notices must be sent to you; and
- include a copy of the notice of decision.

You should send your application for review to:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**AND/OR**

### **3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

Section 70 of the Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be directed to the following address:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.