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Belconnen ACT 2617  
Phone 1300 135 070

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Belconnen ACT 2616  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
ABN 26 331 428 522



FOI ref: 201617/13

Dear CD

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

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

'...any meeting minutes from the previous twelve months created by the The Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board and held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.'

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

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

A search has been conducted for documents relevant to your request. As the Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board has not met in the past 12 months no documents have been found that would fall within the terms of your request. Therefore in accordance with subsection 24A(1)(b)(ii) of the FOI Act (see Attachment B), I refuse your request on the grounds that no documents exist.

Please note that in line with Prime Minister and Cabinet report, *Public Sector Data Management*, released in July 2015, the governance of data policies has been streamlined. The Secretaries Data Group (SDG) now has responsibility for data integration policy. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet provides secretariat support for the SDG.

#### **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 Australian Bureau of Statistics. 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.

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

Yours sincerely

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

8 September 2016

Dear Australian Bureau of Statistics,

I hereby request under the Freedom of Information Act any meeting minutes from the previous twelve months created by the The Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board and held by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

For the sake of expediency of this request in searching for relevant documents I note that the Australian Statistician chairs the The Cross Portfolio Data Integration Oversight Board and the Australian Bureau of Statistics is the lead agency within the National Statistics Service within which the board is established.

I ask that this Freedom of Information request is fulfilled in the public interest to inform public debate around "data integration" and the 2016 Census.

I look forward to hearing from your FOI office as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

CD

*Freedom of Information Act 1982*

**Section 24A**

**24A Requests may be refused if documents cannot be found, do not exist or have not been received**

*Document lost or non-existent*

- (1) An agency or Minister may refuse a request for access to a document if:
  - (a) all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document;  
and
  - (b) the agency or Minister is satisfied that the document:
    - (i) is in the agency's or Minister's possession but cannot be found; or
    - (ii) does not exist.

*Document not received as required by contract*

- (2) An agency may refuse a request for access to a document if:
  - (a) in order to comply with section 6C, the agency has taken contractual measures to ensure that it receives the document;  
and
  - (b) the agency has not received the document; and
  - (c) the agency has taken all reasonable steps to receive the document in accordance with those contractual measures.

**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.