



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

201617/18

Dear Mr Smith

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your email of 26 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):

'Reports in relation 'to public feedback with regard to the Census' through to 19 August 2016'.

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 six documents exist pertaining to your request. I have decided to give you access, in part, to all six documents. The documents being released to you are at Attachment B.

Statement of reasons

Redactions have been made to the documents for the following reasons:

I have decided that all six documents contain information which is exempt under section 22 of the FOI Act as it does not pertain to the 2016 Census and therefore is not related to your request.

I have decided that three documents contain information which is exempt under section 47C of the FOI Act as it is deliberative in nature and relevant to the matters considered as part of the development of an official statement.

I have decided that four documents contain information which is exempt under section 47E of the FOI Act as it reveals the operations of the agency.

As sections 47C and 47E are conditional exemptions, I have determined that the release of this information would be contrary to the public interest as it would cause uncertainty about official statements. Such an outcome could reasonably be expected to have a detrimental impact to the confidence placed in official statements and in turn impact on the ability of the ABS to fulfil its legislated functions. Therefore access will not be granted.

Charges

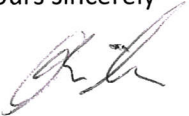
There are no charges relating to your request.

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 1.

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

Yours sincerely



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

27 September 2016

Dear Keelie Williams,

Thank you for your email.

I am happy to proceed with your interpretation of the revised scope, providing we include all such documents created up until 19 August 2016. I am happy to allow for an extra 9 days of processing time to allow for this change. Are you happy to proceed on that basis?

Yours sincerely,

James Smith

-----Original Message-----

Dear Mr Smith,

Thank you for your email revising the scope of your Freedom of Information (Fol) request.

I have interpreted the scope revision in the context of your initial request, specifically point 4 of that request which stated that you are requesting reports in relation 'to public feedback with regard to the Census' through to 10 August 2016 - the date on which your Fol request was received by the ABS.

Can you please respond with your confirmation (or otherwise) of the revised scope.

I would be very happy to work with you to further refine the scope if the above does not meet your requirements or alternately you may submit a new request to the ABS Fol inbox at [1][ABS request email].

Regards

Keelie Williams

FOI Contact Officer

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(P) (02) 6252 7203

Executive Leadership Group Meeting – 21 March 2016
Fortnightly ELG Communication Report

Exec/SES talking points for the next fortnight:

- **Protecting people's privacy is the ABS's highest priority.**
- This includes protecting the privacy and confidentiality of everyone who completes the Census. We have always collected names and addresses in the Census. We never have and never will release identifiable Census data.
- Retaining names and addresses in the 2016 Census will make Census data even more valuable and provide greater insight into a range of social and economic areas.

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- 2016 Census Communications update:**
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- Corporate and Census Communication continue to monitor media and social media coverage, and stakeholder and public response, to the 2016 Census name and address retention decision. Planning for proactive communication around the issue is underway, with a focus on preparation of the 'How Australia Takes a Census' resource.

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

[illegible]

		<div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div> <div>[REDACTED]</div>		
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Executive Leadership Group Meeting – 4 April 2016
Fortnightly ELG Communication Report

Exec/SES talking points for the next fortnight:

- **Protecting people's privacy is the ABS's highest priority.**
- This includes protecting the privacy and confidentiality of everyone who completes the Census. We have always collected names and addresses in the Census. We never have and never will release identifiable Census data.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Executive Leadership Group Meeting – 18 April 2016
Fortnightly ELG Communication Report

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

For noting/monitoring:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

• **2016 Census:**

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] a general Census and a privacy fact sheet, has been finalised [REDACTED]
- Online information and other communication material about Census name and address retention has been updated to clarify that the ABS will destroy names and addresses four years after collection (August 2020) or earlier, once there is no longer any community benefit in their retention. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

●●● Census Update - ELG 11th July - 29 sleeps to go... ●●●

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Communications

- Regional hot-spot engagement - Port Augusta, Coober Pedy, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Robinvale, Swan Hill, Rockhampton and Broome
- LGBTI engagement on 'other sex' reporting
- Email overflow management from Census Inquiry Service being planned
- Campaign benchmark, tracking and evaluation research benchmark wave to start 11 July.
- [REDACTED]
- Census kit for MPs, Senators and LGAs is currently in production.
- Federal election outcome uncertainty and new Senators
- Media Releases - NAIDOC Week Census, One month to go, Regional virtual roadshows.

[REDACTED]

**NOTE: FOR ELG CONVERSATION ONLY
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**



Census Update - ELG 25th July - 15 sleeps to go...



[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

Communications

- Census campaign began 24 July.
- Campaign benchmark report received - 73% online, 95% positive support for Census.
- Negative privacy coverage
- Opera House illumination planning on track. Landmarks across all states and territories being lit up green
- Social media stakeholder kit (Pause Partner Pack) finalised and uploaded to ABS website, and distributed to various stakeholders.
- Social media strategy and community management plans finalised, including tactics, issues management and escalation.
- CALD community and media briefings / launches.
- Kits for MPs, Senators and councils being distributed.
- Various media releases, editorials, and media event planning underway. Media interest and interviews increasing.
- Working with Australia Post on joint opportunities.

[Redacted content]

**NOTE: FOR ELG CONVERSATION ONLY
NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION**



Census Update - ELG 8th August - 1 sleep to go...



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



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[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]

Communications

- Orange circle icon Negative coverage on privacy.
- Orange circle icon Negative coverage on call centre, availability of paper forms, public confusion.
- Orange circle icon Public concerns over late fines to be allayed.
- Green circle icon Negative comments by politicians – positive by PM, Treasurer and our Minister
- Green circle icon Some positive support and lots of coverage.
- Green circle icon Campaign plus media creating strong awareness – highlights incl 7.30 Report, The Project, JJJ Hack and “I made the count” coverage.
- Green circle icon Upcoming – Sunrise (today), Today show, green monuments, Ray Hadley, ABS House Census day press call, 100 yo Census completer
- Green circle icon Challenging for RMU Directors as media spokespersons at time - particularly as conversation gets detailed technically.



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]



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[Redacted text block]



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[Redacted text block]



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[Redacted text block]



[Redacted text block]

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.