

S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 November 2012 4:50 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

HP TRIM Record Number: 12#737009DOC

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

I have passed on your previous advice about producing a dump of data from the NCD and associated cost.

Can I get you confirm via email your answers to S47F(1) first 2 dot points below.

S47F

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 November 2012 4:46 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

Part A – Download of the Database

The applicant has amended Part A of his request to now read "A machine-parseable dump of the entire Classification database". I understand this to mean the applicant will accept whatever information is on the database, without reference to the various categories as listed originally, which may or may not be on the database. I note your previous advice from David Grant in the Information Division that that this will cost \$3,600 for a contractor to download the information to a portable hard-drive, a process that will take 2 days.

I have been discussing this matter with my Director, S47F(1). Although we are still inclined to the view that this part of the request is an unreasonable diversion of resources on the ground of its cost, as opposed to the time, S47F(1) was concerned that we cover a few points in case our decision is challenged by the applicant with the Australian Information Commissioner. Can you please ask S47F :

- Is the necessity to outsource this process due to lack of expertise or time on the part of your Branch, or some other reason?
- Is there any reason why AGD's IT Section couldn't do it?
- Are the modifications to the National Classification Database now complete (noting the applicant's complaint to CB of 13/09/2012 and S47F(1) reply of 09/10/2012)?

Regards  
S47F(1)

S47F(1)

S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 8 November 2012 9:18 AM  
**To:** Fitzgerald, Jane  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2012 4:53 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Thanks S47F(1)

Wait to hear re Part A. Will confirm re Part B when I hear back from the applicant.

Regards

S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:** Fitzgerald, Jane; S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

I will discuss with my Branch Head and get back to you as quickly as possible.

I think you have confused the advice I have given you re the download – we rely on the Information Division to do the download for us. This Branch is in CLD – we have simply passed on the feedback from Information Division who indicated that a contractor would need to be employed for this task. We don't determine the priorities in Information Division.

S22(1)

S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2012 3:48 PM

**To:** S47F(1)

**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

Thanks for your email.

Part A – Database Dump

I referred the applicant to the new search engine, but he has subsequently told me that he wishes to press on with Part A of his request. In coming to any FOI decision, including whether the processing of a request would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources, we are obliged by the *FOI Act* to take the Information Commissioner Guidelines and case law into account. In our view, if we have correctly understood your Branch's advice, being busy with other projects deemed to be more important would not, unfortunately, sustain a finding that the processing of the request would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources. For this reason, we therefore feel obliged to ask that the material requested by the applicant on this occasion be provided – irrespective of whether you choose to engage a contractor or not. We would be grateful if that could be done as soon as practicable. We would also be grateful if you could advise as to when the task is likely to be completed. Given your other commitments at the moment we will understand if it takes a little time.

S22(1)



Regards  
S47F(1)

Freedom of Information & Privacy Section | Office of Corporate Counsel  
Attorney-General's Department | 3 - 5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 November 2012 2:26 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

See S47F(1) response to the database download issue below. Resources are very tight throughout the Department.

Re the original complaint from Mr Molloy about the website.

The new Classification Website, [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) went live last night and is in operation today.

Mr Molloy complained (his point 4) that he was unable to do a date range search – this has been rectified in the new search screen for the National Classification database and is operational. The following screen grab illustrates with the fields “Classified Before” and “Classified After” :

## Search the Classification Database

Search For

### Find items by title...

You can add the following restrictions to help reduce the number of matching titles.

All of these words	<input type="text"/>
Any of these words	<input type="text"/>
The exact phrase	<input type="text"/>
None of these words	<input type="text"/>

### Find items using other information...

You can further reduce the number of titles by providing the following information.

Director or Author	<input type="text"/>
Producer or Publisher	<input type="text"/>
Production Company	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>

Search the following media

Search Film

Search Publications

Search Games

Classification Type	All <input type="button" value="v"/>
Classification Number	<input type="text"/>
Classified After...	<input type="text"/>
Classified Before...	<input type="text"/>

Dates can be "dd-mm-yyyy" or "yyyy".

### Restricted Content...

Do you want to see results containing restricted material and/or adult themes?

Yes, include adult and restricted material in the search results.

[Search help](#) | [About the classification database](#)

The new site also has an explanation sheet on how best to use the search engine.

The new site also allows for RSS feeds. In short this allows a user to register so they receive any updates to the site and in Mr Malloy's case this would include new decisions published on the NCD.

Mr Molloy also complained about the reliance on JAVA script etc on the website but which software the Dept uses is what best meets our technical and financial requirements.

Before our last response I discussed the issue of the download with Jane Fitzgerald who is the AS Classification.

She also had concerns about the possible lodgement of an appeal with the AIC.

If and only if the changes to the new website do not meet Mr Molloy's needs then the Branch would be willing to consider paying for the download on the proviso that it is done in such a way that it can be re-used in future for other purposes.

I hope this assists with the request.

S47F(1)

Acting Assistant Secretary  
Classification Branch  
Attorney General's Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 November 2012 9:26 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

## UNCLASSIFIED

Hi S47F(1)

Thanks, my comments below in green against the questions:

Regards  
S47F(1)

Director, Business Information Systems  
Information Division  
Attorney-General's Department

S47F(1)

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, 1 November 2012 4:50 pm  
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Hi S47F(1)

Part A – Download of the Database

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I have been discussing this matter with my Director, S47F(1). Although we are still inclined to the view that this part of the request is an unreasonable diversion of resources on the ground of its cost, as opposed to the time, S47F(1) was concerned that we cover a few points in case our decision is challenged by the applicant with the Australian Information Commissioner. Can you please ask S47F(1):

- Is the necessity to outsource this process due to lack of expertise or time on the part of your Branch, or some other reason?  
S4 – our FTE staff within the Business Information Systems (BIS) Team are all working on capital projects or supporting existing applications under Service Level Agreements (SLAs) resourced by application owners. The use of non-ongoing staff members is necessary in this case as there are no funded FTE officers to access for this task.
- Is there any reason why AGD's IT Section couldn't do it?  
S4 – per the above point.
- Are the modifications to the National Classification Database now complete (noting the applicant's complaint to CB of 13/09/2012 and S47F(1) reply of 09/10/2012)?

Regards

S47F(1)

S47F(1)

Freedom of Information & Privacy Section | Office of Corporate Counsel





S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

By 'columns' he is more likely to mean 'fields' – as opposed to Excel-type columns.

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

I've confirmed with S47F that the records go back to the 70's and there are about 120K records. It's a huge file (300+ MB).

Because it's XML as he requested, it's not really very human-friendly. The best thing to open the file with is Notepad, although it would still look quite untidy and take ages to load. The guys would have to create a script to put into a view that is easily readable by a person, but this would take time.

But it currently meets the guys requirements ('machine-readable').

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

Thanks - if that is XML – OK

What about the columns aspect he mentioned – can he sort it himself into columns?

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
 Classification Branch  
 Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

I'll chase-up the file and ensure it's from 1971 to-date.

But as for the format, it's XML, as requested. I can ask the guys how your area can view it, but I think it's the format that 'the guy' wanted.

S47F(1)

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

The download is meant to be the entire NCD from what I can see there are only 20 odd files listed.

Also the format – none of the data is in columns or the Excel spread sheet requested.

Can we discuss please – we know have an urgent deadline for this.

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)

**Cc:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** FW: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

As per Neal's message below, the NCD extract for the FOI request is available on the COB G drive.

Please let me know if we can assist with this further.

S47F(1)

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 3:08 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

There is a ncd-export-OneOff.xml file in G:\BOSS\NCD-FOI (COB G drive)

It is roughly 380MB in xml format and should only contain records visible on NCD.

Let me know if something needs to be changed.

Cheers,

---

S47F(1)  
Business Information Systems, Attorney-General's Department  
S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

COB have now asked for the NCD data by early next week, preferably on a thumb drive. I assume this a high priority issue for all concerned, so please let me know (ASAP) if you think this timeframe can't be achieved.

Thanks,  
S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 November 2012 3:46 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

The applicants specifications are:

"A machine-parseable dump (SQL, XML, etc) of the entire Classification database dated back as early as February 8, 1971, including at least the following columns:

1. title
2. classification (rating)
3. consumer advice
4. category
5. medium
6. version
7. duration
8. date of classification
9. author
10. publisher
11. production company
12. country of origin
13. applicant
14. file number
15. classification number"

As discussed if downloading this into an Excel spreadsheet is consistent with the above then please download it into this format.

Can you advise when this will be programmed?

S47F(1)

EL2 Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 November 2012 5:31 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:** Fitzgerald (AGD), Jane; S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

18/09/2012 – acknowledgement of request sent by AGD FOI team

28/09/2012 – applicant notified of intention to refuse request as unreasonable diversion of resources – consultation period commences, as extended twice by agreement with the applicant

Part A – NCD download

Final scope revision 29/10/2012 – due date to complete processing is Wednesday 28/11/2012. I would be grateful if I could have the portable hard-drive download by, say, **Monday 26/11/2012**.

S22(1)

Please let me know if there are any difficulties with these suggested time-frames.

Regards

S47F(1)

Freedom of Information & Privacy Section | Office of Corporate Counsel  
 Attorney-General's Department | 3 - 5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 November 2012 2:06 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:** Fitzgerald, Jane; S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents  
 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S22(1), S47F(1)

I will liaise with Information on the NCD download.

Can you please advise of the specific timeframes for both parts of this request.

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Friday, 9 November 2012 2:12 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

The applicant has just confirmed his agreement to amend Part B of the request to now read:

*"Classification Board reports relating to the determination of an RC rating for content for the July-September 2012 quarter".*

I would be grateful if you could locate the relevant reports.

Thanks  
S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 7 November 2012 4:47 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:** Fitzgerald, Jane; S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: FOI Request - Molloy (Pirate Party) - Classification Database and RC classified documents  
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

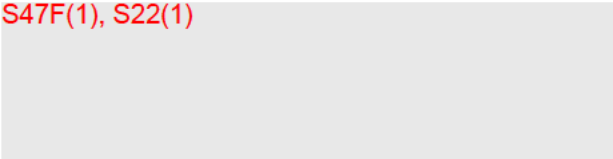
S47F(1)

I will discuss with my Branch Head and get back to you as quickly as possible.



I think you have confused the advice I have given you re the download – we rely on the Information Division to do the download for us. This Branch is in CLD – we have simply passed on the feedback from Information Division who indicated that a contractor would need to be employed for this task. We don't determine the priorities in Information Division.

S47F(1), S22(1)



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Hi S47F  
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Thanks for your email.

Part A – Database Dump

I referred the applicant to the new search engine, but he has subsequently told me that he wishes to press on with Part A of his request. In coming to any FOI decision, including whether the processing of a request would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources, we are obliged by the *FOI Act* to take the Information Commissioner Guidelines and case law into account. In our view, if we have correctly understood your Branch's advice, being busy with other projects deemed to be more important would not, unfortunately, sustain a finding that the processing of the request would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources. For this reason, we therefore feel obliged to ask that the material requested by the applicant on this occasion be provided – irrespective of whether you choose to engage a contractor or not. We would be grateful if that could be done as soon as practicable. We would also be grateful if you could advise as to when the task is likely to be completed. Given your other commitments at the moment we will understand if it takes a little time.

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[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

## UNCLASSIFIED

S47F(1)

See S47F(1) response to the database download issue below. Resources are very tight throughout the Department.

Re the original complaint from Mr Molloy about the website.

The new Classification Website, [www.classification.gov.au](http://www.classification.gov.au) went live last night and is in operation today.

Mr Molloy complained (his point 4) that he was unable to do a date range search – this has been rectified in the new search screen for the National Classification database and is operational. The following screen grab illustrates with the fields “Classified Before” and “Classified After” :

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Search

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You can add the following restrictions to help reduce the number of matching titles.

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Production Company	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>

Search the following media

Search Film  
 Search Publications  
 Search Games

Classification Type	All <input type="text"/>
Classification Number	<input type="text"/>
Classified After...	<input type="text"/>
Classified Before...	<input type="text"/>

Dates can be "dd-mm-yyyy" or "yyyy".

### Restricted Content...

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Acting Assistant Secretary  
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## UNCLASSIFIED

Hi S47F(1)

Thanks, my comments below in green against the questions:

Regards

S47F(1)

Director, Business Information Systems  
Information Division  
Attorney-General's Department

S47F(1)

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S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 November 2012 11:39 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

The size of the file is 377MB – and small thumb drive will suffice (you only need to buy the smallest capacity on available).

There are lots of records in there – I'm not sure how they've sorted the content (i.e. by title, date, etc) so it will be difficult to confirm that all records are there – but there are definitely more than 20-30 records.

I'd imagine that the size of the record indicates that most, if not all of the records are contained in the file.

Please let me know if this is OK, or do you want me to do more checking.

Cheers,

S47F(1)

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 20 November 2012 11:19 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** FW: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

As discussed can you check the entry on the g drive outlined in Julian's email.

I opened it yesterday but could only see 20 or so records.

Can you check that it covers the period of the FOI request ie the complete NCD database back to 12971.

If you can advise me of the size of the download we will purchase a USB drive and download it and send to S47F(1)

This is a priority for today.

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
 Classification Branch  
 Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:30 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

By 'columns' he is more likely to mean 'fields' – as opposed to Excel-type columns.

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:24 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

I've confirmed with S47F that the records go back to the 70's and there are about 120K records. It's a huge file (300+ MB).

Because it's XML as he requested, it's not really very human-friendly. The best thing to open the file with is Notepad, although it would still look quite untidy and take ages to load. The guys would have to create a script to put into a view that is easily readable by a person, but this would take time.

But it currently meets the guys requirements ('machine-readable').

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:14 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi. S47F(1)

Thanks - if that is XML – OK

What about the columns aspect he mentioned – can he sort it himself into columns?

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department



S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:12 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

**UNCLASSIFIED**

H) S47F(1)

I'll chase-up the file and ensure it's from 1971 to-date.

But as for the format, it's XML, as requested. I can ask the guys how your area can view it, but I think it's the format that 'the guy' wanted.

S47F(1)

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 19 November 2012 11:07 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

The download is meant to be the entire NCD from what I can see there are only 20 odd files listed.

Also the format – none of the data is in columns or the Excel spread sheet requested.

Can we discuss please – we know have an urgent deadline for this.

S47F(1)

Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 3:49 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

As per Neal's message below, the NCD extract for the FOI request is available on the COB G drive.

Please let me know if we can assist with this further.

S47F(1)  
)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 3:08 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

S47F(1)

There is a ncd-export-OneOff.xml file S22(1)

It is roughly 380MB in xml format and should only contain records visible on NCD.

Let me know if something needs to be changed.

Cheers,

---

S47F(1)  
Business Information Systems, Attorney-General's Department  
S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 November 2012 11:47 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]  
**Importance:** High

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

COB have now asked for the NCD data by early next week, preferably on a thumb drive. I assume this a high priority issue for all concerned, so please let me know (ASAP) if you think this timeframe can't be achieved.

Thanks,

S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 13 November 2012 3:46 PM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** NCD Download for FOI Application. [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

The applicants specifications are:

"A machine-parseable dump (SQL, XML, etc) of the entire Classification database dated back as early as February 8, 1971, including at least the following columns:

1. title
2. classification (rating)
3. consumer advice
4. category
5. medium
6. version
7. duration
8. date of classification
9. author
10. publisher
11. production company
12. country of origin
13. applicant
14. file number
15. classification number"

As discussed if downloading this into an Excel spreadsheet is consistent with the above then please download it into this format.

Can you advise when this will be programmed?

S47F(1)

EL2 Manager Executive Support Unit  
Classification Branch  
Attorney Generals Department

S47F(1)

mail: Locked Bag 3 Haymarket NSW 1240

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**Sanders, Stephen**

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**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 October 2012 11:59 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** RE: Pirate Party request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

Please find my response below in green. There won't be consumer advice listed for any decisions made prior to it being something that the Board added – around the mid 90's.

Cheers,

S47F(1)

---

**From:** S47F(1)  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 October 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** S47F(1)  
**Subject:** Pirate Party request [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

**UNCLASSIFIED**

Hi S47F(1)

*I know I have asked you this before but is all the following information available from the National Classification Database?*

*Is the information required below available for all entries in the database right back to 1971? For example I don't think that consumer advice exists prior to the current scheme.*

*I am happy to say that we will provide this information where it exists for the record.*

*(a) A machine-parseable dump (SQL, XML, etc) of the entire Classification database dated back as early as February 8, 1971, including at least the following column*

- 1. title yes*
- 2. classification (rating) yes*
- 3. consumer advice yes – where it exists*
- 4. category yes*
- 5. medium no – but will be listed on the new version of the site – I assume he refers to the media the application was submitted in/shows up next to the title i.e. DVD; Multi-platform, etc*
- 6. version yes*
- 7. duration yes*
- 8. date of classification yes*
- 9. author yes aka director – there are diff headings now*
- 10. publisher yes aka producer – there are diff headings now*
- 11. production company yes*
- 12. country of origin yes*
- 13. applicant yes*
- 14. file number yes*
- 15. classification number yes*

## E-mail Message

**From:** S47F(1) [REDACTED]  
**To:** brendan.molloy@pirateparty.org.au [SMTP:brendan.molloy@pirateparty.org.au]  
**Cc:**  
**Sent:** 31/10/2012 at 4:16 pm  
**Received:** 31/10/2012 at 4:16 pm  
**Subject:** Re: Your Freedom of Information request to the Attorney-General's Department - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr Molloy

Thank you for your email.

We have referred your amended Part A of your request and query concerning Part B to the Department's line area for advice. A "line area" is a phrase used by us to describe the section or branch of the Department with policy/operational responsibility for the subject matter of the documents being sought. I apologise for not making that clear earlier.

With respect to your request for other documents outlined in your email, a request for this information cannot be treated as part of your original request. A separate freedom of information request would need to be made and would only cover documents up to the date of that request. In order to ensure procedural fairness, a request of this nature would be processed by an authorised decision maker other than myself. Please confirm by return email if you wish to make such a request. If you do, I would ask that, in your email, you separately list the categories of documents you would be seeking. Should you do that, the 30 day time period within which most requests are required to be processed will start from the date of your confirmation.

Sincerely

S47F(1) [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information & Privacy Section | Office of Corporate Counsel

Attorney-General's Department | 3 - 5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

S47F(1) [REDACTED]

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

**From:** Brendan Molloy HYPERLINK "mailto:[mailto:brendan.molloy@pirateparty.org.au]" [mailto:brendan.molloy@pirateparty.org.au]

**Sent:** Monday, 29 October 2012 1:34 PM

**To:** S47F(1) [REDACTED]

S22(1), S47F(1) [REDACTED]

Subject: TRIM: Re: Your Freedom of Information request to the Attorney-General's Department - Classification Database and RC classified documents [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Mr S47F(1),

I thank you for your response.

In regards to Part A, to suggest that \$4000 is a reasonable price for a database dump of public data is laughable and offensive. If the AGD cannot find someone to type the single command required to extract this information, I will happy assist in the extraction pro bono.

I would also like to express my dismay at the difficulty of getting access to what is public data in a reasonable manner such that it can be used for the public good. If the AGD had the technical ability to not break the search mechanism in the first place, we would not be in the position we are in now.

I would like to vary Part A of my request:

(a) A machine-parseable dump (ie SQL dump) of the entire Classification database.

I would like to ask what you consider an appropriate scope for Part B to be such that it would not be an unreasonable diversion of your resources.

If possible, I would also like to append the following parts to my request:

(c) All documents, quotes and emails pertaining to the determination of scope and cost relating to Part A and Part B of this freedom of information request;

(d) Documents pertaining to the process used by freedom of information request personnel at AGD for:

(i) defining scope of a request

(ii) quantifying cost of completing a request

(e) Answers to the following questions:

(i) In relation to the 209,909 records specified in the previous email, how did the AGD do a record count if there is no on-site IT personnel capable of creating a dump of the database when doing a query to count records in a database is one step away from recording the output in a file?

(ii) Which contractors were consulted regarding the \$4000 quote?

(iii) Just what is a "line area"?

If it is not possible to extend this FOI request with these three extra parts, I will happily open a separate FOI request with those parts.

S47F(1) wrote:

> UNCLASSIFIED

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>

> Dear Mr Molloy

>

>

>

> I refer to your FOI request, which I have set out below, as it

> currently

> reads:

>

>

>

> /\_Part A\_/

>

> /(a) A machine-parseable dump (SQL, XML, etc) of the entire

> Classification database dated back as early as February 8, 1971,

> including at least the following columns:/

>

> / 1. title/



>  
> / 2. classification (rating)/  
>  
> / 3. consumer advice/  
>  
> / 4. category/  
>  
> / 5. medium/  
>  
> / 6. version/  
>  
> / 7. duration/  
>  
> / 8. date of classification/  
>  
> / 9. author/  
>  
> / 10. publisher/  
>  
> / 11. production company/  
>  
> / 12. country of origin/  
>  
> / 13. applicant/  
>  
> / 14. file number/  
>  
> / 15. classification number/  
>  
> / /  
>  
> /\_Part B (Revised 28 September 2012)\_/  
>  
> / /

>

> /- Documentation relating to the determination of an RC rating for

> content from 28 September 2010 to 28 September 2012; and/

>

> / /

>

> /- Any existing digital documentation relating to the determination of

> an RC rating for content from 1971 to 28 September 2012./

>

> / /

>

> I havenow received detailed advice from the Department's

> Classification Branch concerning your amended request and I apologise

> for the delay in that respect. I am advised:

>

>

>

> that the database has, from 1971 to date, 209,909 recorded

> decisions and engaging the services of a contractor to satisfy Part A

> of your request will cost the Department approximately \$4,000;

>

> with respect to Section 1 of Part B of your request, there are

> 977 RC decision documents relating to the determination of an RC

> rating for content for the period 28 September 2010 to 28 September

> 2012, of which 336 were made in the period October 2011-September

> 2012;

>

> with respect to Section 2 of Part B of your request, there are

> 2,096 digitally recorded documents relating to RC decisions for the

> period 1971 to 28 September 2012; and

>

> each document within the scope of Part B of the request would

> require individual examination to check, amongst other things, that

> disclosure of the RC rating classification reports did not disclose

> any prohibited material under the /Broadcasting Services Act 1992/

> /(Cth)./

>

>

>

> Section 24 of the FOI Act allows an agency to refuse a request if the  
> work involved in processing that request would substantially and  
> unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other  
> operations (s24AA(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act). After considering your  
> amended request carefully and after having carried out extensive  
> consultations with the relevant line area in this Department, I have  
> reached the view that the wide scope of both parts of your request, as  
> it is presently worded, means that its processing would constitute an  
> unreasonable diversion of our Department's resources within the  
> meaning of the above provision.

>

>

>

> I must therefore enter into a consultation process with you under  
> s24(1)(a) of the Act. So as to comply with s24AB(2), I hereby give  
> you written notice that it is my intention to refuse access to the  
> documents you have requested on the ground that the processing of your  
> request, as currently worded, would substantially and unreasonably  
> divert this Departments' resources. In the context of the information  
> set out above, I therefore ask that you reword your request so as to  
> significantly reduce the scope of documents within ambit within the  
> next

> 14 days.

>

>

>

> You could consider the following:

>

>

>  
> - Narrowing the scope of your request as to time period; and

>  
>  
>

> - Narrowing the scope of document content in your request  
> to information to that which you specifically wish to know.

>  
>  
>

> Should you wish to, you can consult with me as the contact officer in  
> this matter. I can be reached on email or telephone as set out below  
> and would be happy to take steps to assist you in revising the request  
> so that it would no longer be an unreasonable diversion of our  
> resources (as per s24AB(3) of the FOI Act).

>  
>  
>

> I am also obliged to notify you that if you do not respond to this  
> email within the next 14 days, Part (b) of your FOI request will be  
> taken to be withdrawn (as per s24AB(7) of the FOI Act).

>  
>  
>

> Sincerely

>

> S47F(1)

>  
>  
>

> S47F(1)

>

> Freedom of Information & Privacy Section | Office of Corporate Counsel

>

> Attorney-General's Department | 3 - 5 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600

S47F(1)

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> immediately by return e-mail and delete all copies. If this e-mail or  
> any attachments have been sent to you in error, that error does not  
> constitute waiver of any confidentiality, privilege or copyright in  
> respect of information in the e-mail or attachments.

> \*\*

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>

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Regards,

Brendan Molloy

S22(1), S47F(1)

Secretary

Pirate Party Australia

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W: <http://www.pirateparty.org.au>

E: HYPERLINK

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