



9 February 2017

Our reference: LEX 25282

Mr Justin Warren
Right to Know

By email: foi+request-2903-a8c2eff5@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Warren

Acknowledgement of your Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your request dated 16 January 2017 and received by the Department of Human Services (the **department**) on on the same day, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) to the following documents:

- ' - The business case document(s) for the Pay As You Go (PAYG) data matching initiative that is the subject of Question on Notice HS 15 from the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Budget Estimates hearing on 3 June 2015.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_Estimates/clacctte/estimates/bud1516/DHS/index
- Documents that describe the algorithm or process used to perform the data matching that identified the "approximately 1,080,000" discrepancies between PAYG data and data reported by DHS customers, as referred to in the Answer to Question HS 15.
- Documents that describe the analysis process for how the value of "historical discrepancies", as described in the Answer to Question HS 15, was determined. Such documents should describe the statistical method, the sampling process used, statistics returned (standard error, mean, confidence interval, etc.), how the likely average debt value was determined, etc.
- Documents containing the program specifications/requirements used to define how the data matching process should be implemented by programmers. Such documents would refer to, for example, the use of certain fields to match on such as ABN, Business Name, Customer Name, etc'.

An acknowledgement letter was sent to you on 19 January 2017 advising that you could expect a decision from us by 14 February 2017.

The processing time was suspended during a period of consultation under section 24AB. As this consultation did occur, as you provided a response on 6 February 2017, you can now expect a decision from us by 20 February 2017.

I have taken your revised request to be for the following documents:

' - The business case document(s) for the Pay As You Go (PAYG) data matching initiative that is the subject of Question on Notice HS 15 from the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee Budget Estimates hearing on 3 June 2015.
http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Senate_Estimates/clacctte/estimates/bud1516/DHS/index

- Documents that describe the algorithm or process used to perform the data matching that identified the "approximately 1,080,000" discrepancies between PAYG data and data reported by DHS customers, as referred to in the Answer to Question HS 15.

- Documents that describe the analysis process for how the value of "historical discrepancies", as described in the Answer to Question HS 15, was determined. Such documents should describe the statistical method, the sampling process used, statistics returned (standard error, mean, confidence interval, etc.), how the likely average debt value was determined, etc.

- [the final version of the Requirements Specification (or similar document)] containing the program specifications/requirements used to define how the data matching process should be implemented by programmers. Such [a document] would refer to, for example, the use of certain fields to match on such as ABN, Business Name, Customer Name, etc

Where multiple revisions of documents exist, I am only interested in the version current at the time the Department refers to in its answer to HS15'.

The processing time may be extended if we need to consult third parties or for other reasons. We will advise you if this happens.

The department will advise you if a charge is payable to process your request and the amount of any such charge as soon as practicable.

Your Address

The FOI Act requires that you provide us with an address which we can send notices to. You have advised your electronic address is foi+request-2952-748c3bc6@righttoknow.org.au. We will send all notices and correspondence to this address. Please advise us as soon as possible if you wish correspondence to be sent to another address or if your address changes. If you do not advise us of changes to your address, correspondence and notices will continue to be sent to the address specified above.

Disclosure Log

Please note that information released under FOI Act may be published in a disclosure log on the department's website. Section 11C of the FOI Act requires this publication, however it is subject to certain exceptions, including where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

Exclusion of junior departmental employee details

The department is working towards ensuring that all employees have a choice about whether they provide their full name, personal logon identifiers and direct contact details in response to public enquiries. Where such details are included in the scope of a request, this may add to processing time and applicable charges as it may be necessary to consider whether the details are exempt under the FOI Act. On this basis, unless you tell us otherwise, we will

assume that these details are out of scope of your request and they will be redacted under section 22 of the FOI Act.

Further assistance

If you have any questions please email FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Authorised FOI Decision Maker
Freedom of Information Team
FOI and Litigation Branch | Legal Services Division
Department of Human Services