



16 February 2017

Our reference: LEX 25344

Mr Thomas Randle

By email: foi+request-2963-45908d37@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Randle

Your Freedom of Information Request - Third Party Consultation

I refer to your request dated 17 January 2017 and received by the Department of Human Services (the **department**) on the same date, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) to the following:

'I request under the Freedom of Information Act (1982) copies of the following documents:
All minute documents of the Department of Human Services since January 2016 where:
a.) the Minister or a minister responsible for the department has authorised a decision to approve some action by the department (typically a "For decision" minute); and,
b.) where the purpose of the minute decision is related to some or all aspects of the Online Compliance Interventions program; and,
c.) exclude from the scope of this request any email correspondence, and the names and contact information for any public service staff or advisors may be removed from any document within the above scope without further consultation.'

Third-party consultation - business documents

As your request covers documents which contain information concerning the business, commercial or financial affairs of an organisation, the department is required to consult with the organisation concerned (under section 27 of the FOI Act) before making a decision on the release of those documents.

The consultation mechanism under section 27 applies when the department considers the organisation concerned may wish to contend that the requested documents are exempt because their release would disclose trade secrets or commercially valuable information or may adversely affect their business or financial affairs. The department will take into account any comments we receive from the person or organisation. However, the final decision on whether to grant you access to the documents requested rests with this department.

For these reasons the period for processing your request has been extended by 30 days in order to allow the department time to consult with third parties (section 15(6) of the FOI Act). The processing period for your request will now end on 20 March 2017.

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
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