



23 May 2017

Our reference: LEX 29265

Mr Keith Owen

By email: [foi+request-3440-58d5ed90@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-3440-58d5ed90@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Owen

### **Acknowledgement of your Freedom of Information Request – Revised Scope**

I refer to your request dated 23 April 2017 and received by the Department of Human Services (the **department**) on the same day, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **FOI Act**) to the following documents:

1. The number of payees prosecuted for fraud or making false statements by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services over the last 12 months.
2. The number of payees prosecuted for fraud or making false statements by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services over the last 12 months.
3. The number of actual referrals made by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions over the last 12 months.
4. The number of Employees of the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions over the last 12 months.
5. The number of Employees of the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services found to have committed fraud or making false statements and subsequently disciplined as a result.

With respect, this data carries a high level of public interest to ensure the public are aware that the proper administration of a major Government Department is carried out and to ensure the spirit of the law is observed in that it acts as a deterrent for members of the public for committing crimes.'

An acknowledgement letter was sent to you on 1 May 2017 advising that you could expect a decision from us by 23 May 2017.

The processing time was suspended during a period of consultation under section 24AB. The initial consultation letter was sent to you on 9 May 2017. On the same day you replied to the consultation with further information regarding your request. On 15 May 2017 I emailed you with a proposed revised scope based on the information you had provided in your email of 9 May 2017. You agreed with this proposed revised scope on 16 May 2017. Therefore the processing period for your request recommenced on 17 May 2017.

As the period of consultation occurred as above, you can now expect a decision from us by **31 May 2017**.

On 22 May 2017 I sent you a further email clarifying your request and you responded on the same day. I have not taken this additional correspondence to be part of the consultation period under section 24AB and therefore it did not affect the due date for your request.

You revised your request to be for the following documents:

1. *The number of payees prosecuted for fraud or making false statements by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services over the last 12 months.*
2. *The number of payers prosecuted for fraud or making false statements by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services over the last 12 months.*
3. *The number of actual referrals made by the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions over the last 12 months.*
4. *The number of Employees of the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services referred to the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions over the last 12 months.*
5. *The number of Employees of the Child Support Arm of the Department of Human Services who have been:*
  - a. *investigated for potential breaches of the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct with respect to: administrative fraud, payment fraud or for unauthorised access/use of customer information, and have been disciplined as a result, in the last 12 months.*
  - b. *how many of those employees identified have been referred to the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions, for the purpose of a prosecution, in the last 12 months.*

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.

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

### **Further assistance**

If you have any questions please email [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@humanservices.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Charlotte  
Authorised FOI Decision Maker  
FOI and Litigation Branch | Legal Services Division  
Department of Human Services