



Australian Government

**Department of Industry, Innovation,
Climate Change, Science, Research
and Tertiary Education**

Our ref: DIISR13/16745

GPO Box 9839
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia
Web: www.innovation.gov.au
ABN: 74 599 608 295

Mrs P Gale

By email: foi+request-354-97be0ccc@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mrs Gale

I refer to your request received by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (the department) on 17 August 2013, in which you sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to the following:

"...what requests you've gotten for university statistics in the last year or so. I request documents (details below) in regards to applications you have received for university statistics....Documents I request:

- 1. I request a copy (or extract) of each statistics application received by your department between November 1st, 2012 and now.*
- 2. In regards to each application in dot-point 1, I also request a copy (or extract) of any document that explains what data, statistics or information you actually supplied to the applicant. For example, that could be an extract from an email you sent to an applicant with the data saying something like "You asked for[summary of request]. We're sending you a tabulation of [description of tabulation]".*
- 3. In regards to each application in point 1, I also request a copy(or extract) of any document (maybe part of a reply to the applicant) that says how the statistics were supplied in. E.g.,spreadsheet for Excel, PDF list, plain email, etc.*
- 4. In regards to points 1, 2, and 3, I request only the part(s) of the applications and response that describe what data, information or statistics was required by the applicant and what you supplied. I'm not asking for any document part that says who the institution or person was that make the application, or says why the applicant wanted the statistics. If you completely refused an application for statistics, then I don't need any information about the application or your reply.*

5. *It is OK to me if it is easier for you to answer my FOI request by giving me a summary table of the essential information, instead of actual copies of documents”.*

Under subsection 24(1) of the FOI Act, I am satisfied that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to this request. The practical refusal reason is that the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the department from its other operations.

My view is based on a conservative estimate that over 794 hours of decision making and processing time is required to deal with this request. I also wish to advise that I estimate that there are over 1,000 documents and approximately 8,000 folios relevant to your request as presently framed.

In accordance with section 24(1)(a) and 24AB of the FOI Act, I am writing to provide you with written notice that I intend to refuse your request on the grounds that a practical refusal reason exists and to initiate a request consultation process in accordance with section 24AB of the FOI Act.

Request consultation process

Before I make a decision to refuse your request under section 24(1)(b) of the FOI Act, I would like to provide you with the opportunity to revise the scope of your request so that a ‘practical refusal reason’ no longer exists.

Should you wish to revise your request, you must do so **within 14 days** after the day you are given this notice (unless extended by agreement with the department). If you are unable to meet this deadline and wish to arrange an extension of time in which to consider this matter, or would like to discuss how you could best revise the scope of the request, please contact the FOI team by email at FOI@innovation.gov.au.

Under subsection 24AB(6) of the FOI Act, you must, before the end of the 14-day consultation period, do one of the following by written notice to the department:

- a) withdraw the request;
- b) make a revised request; or
- c) indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

Please note that under subsection 24AB(7), the request is taken to have been withdrawn at the end of the 14 day consultation period if:

- (a) the applicant does not consult the contact person during the consultation period in accordance with this notice; or
- (b) the applicant does not do one of the things mentioned in subsection(6) before the end of the consultation period.

In accordance with subsection 24AB(8) of the FOI Act, the 14-day consultation period is to be disregarded in calculating the processing period for the request.

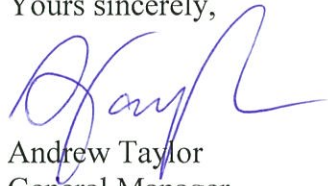
Your written response should be addressed to:

FOI Coordinator
Department of Industry, Innovation,
Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
GPO Box 9839
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Or by email to: FOI@innovation.gov.au

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact the FOI team.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Taylor
General Manager
Data and Analysis Branch
Higher Education Group

4 September 2013