



**Canberra Office**  
ABS House  
45 Benjamin Way  
Belconnen ACT 2617  
Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
ABN 26 331 428 522



FOI Ref: 201718/06

James Smith

Email: [foi+request-3935-bcc5c72a@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-3935-bcc5c72a@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Smith

### **RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your email of 8 August 2017 ([Attachment A](#)) in which you sought access to the following information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act):

- *'Documents related to the ten most recent instances where an employee has sought information, advice, guidance, or opinion on their social media use in a private capacity.'*
- *Limiting the scope of documents to:*
  - *the original request from the employee;*
  - *the agency/department's response;*
  - *any follow-up questions and response;*
  - *only those sent to a relevant HR / conduct / social media (or similar) team (rather than managers across all areas of the organisation); and*
  - *where the original request was created in the last 2 years.'*

### **Response to your request**

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act. I have assessed your request and believe that a practical refusal reason exists.

In accordance with Section 24 of the FOI Act, I have decided that the work involved in processing your request, in its current form, would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations.

This view is based on information that I received from the business areas that hold the documents, which estimate that the time required to process each aspect of your request would far exceed reasonable limits. A preliminary key word search of relevant staff email holdings has yielded over 3000 results which would need to be individually checked to determine the ten most recent documents relevant to your request. In addition there are a number of workgroup databases which hold information relevant to your request and would need to be searched in the same manner.

### **Action Required**

Please contact the ABS Freedom of Information (FOI) Team with a view to agreeing to one of the following options:

- a) revising your request to narrow the scope, for example by defining a shorter timeframe for certain components, or requesting more specific content; or
- b) withdrawing your request; or
- c) confirming that you do not wish to revise the scope of your request.

The ABS FOI Team can be reached by email at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au) or by telephone on (02) 6252 7203.

Please note that in accordance with section 24AB(2)(e) of the FOI Act you have 14 days from the date of this letter to contact the ABS regarding your request. If we do not hear from you in this time your request will be deemed to be withdrawn.

Yours sincerely



Kerry Markoulli  
Program Manager  
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

24 August 2017

James Smith  
 <foi+request-3935-bcc5c72a@righttoknow.org.au>

08/08/2017 07:22 PM

<b>Send</b>	To FOI requests at ABS <freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au> cc bcc
<b>Subject</b>	Freedom of Information request - Private use of social media advice provided to employees 📧
<b>Protective Mark</b>	DOCUMENT NOT YET CLASSIFIED
<b>Categories</b>	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2017/18

Dear Australian Bureau of Statistics,

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

I request documents related to the ten most recent instances where an employee has sought information, advice, guidance, or opinion on their social media use in a private capacity.

I limit the scope of documents to:

- the original request from the employee
- the agency/department's response
- any follow-up questions and response
- only those sent to a relevant HR / conduct / social media (or similar) team (rather than managers across all areas of the organisation)
- where the original request was created in the last 2 years

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

James Smith

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 Please use this email address for all replies to this request:  
 foi+request-3935-bcc5c72a@righttoknow.org.au

Is freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Australian Bureau of Statistics? If so, please contact us using this form:  
[https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change\\_request/new?body=abs](https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change_request/new?body=abs)