



I Whittaker

via email: [foi+request-4071-b4185882@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-4071-b4185882@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear I Whittaker

I refer to your request of 5 September 2017, for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

*'... a document or documents (likely prepared under s.17 of the FOI Act) that details the year on year increase in remuneration (as a percentage, rounded to the nearest decimal point) paid to each of the Department's SES staff for the financial years: 2014/15 to 2015/16 and 2015/2016 to 2016/2017 as determined from the group certificates/PAYG summaries issued to those SES staff (pro-rated, to reflect full year amounts, if necessary).'*

#### **Decision on access to documents**

I am authorised to make decisions under the FOI Act and my decision is set out below.

The department has taken all reasonable steps to identify and locate any relevant document within the scope of your FOI request and no document has been located. I am satisfied that no document exists within the scope of your request and have therefore decided to refuse your request under s 24A(1) of the FOI Act on the ground that the requested document does not exist.

#### **Section 17 of the FOI Act**

While you have suggested that the department could prepare a document under s 17 of the FOI Act, I consider s 17 of the Act would not apply in the case of the information you have requested. The department could not produce a written document containing that information by using our software system or equipment that is ordinarily available. To the extent such a document could be produced, it would only be possible through manual manipulation of material extracted from the payroll system.

#### **Publicly available information**

The department publishes information about SES salary in its annual reports, which are available at following link:  
<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/reporting/annualreport/previous-annual-reports>. For information on salary ranges see page 117 of the 2014-15 report and page 139 of the 2015-16 report. The 2016-17 report will be available later in the year when it is published.

#### **Review rights**

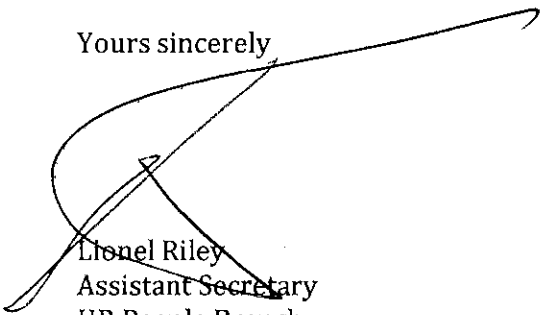
If you wish to seek an internal review, you must apply to the department within **30 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. An application for internal review must be made in writing by post to the FOI Officer or email to [foi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foi@agriculture.gov.au).

Alternatively, you may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) to review my decision. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made in writing within **60 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. You can also make a complaint to the Information Commissioner if you have concerns about how the department handled your request. You can find information about requesting a review, making a complaint, and other information about FOI on the OAIC website [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au) or phone the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

**Contact details**

Should you wish to discuss any issues arising from this letter, please contact Melissa Nickols on 02 6272 3537 or email [foi@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:foi@agriculture.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Lionel Riley  
Assistant Secretary  
HR People Branch  
Corporate Strategy and Governance Division

4 October 2017