



By email: foi+request-4178-68d83ede@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Adams

I refer to your request received by the Department of Education and Training (the department) on 27 October 2017 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

'the full Financial Questionnaire (reference <https://ssphelp.education.gov.au/financial-questionnaire>) submitted by non-Government schools in the Coffs Harbour region (within postcode 2450) from 2009-2016'.

On 10 November 2017, I sent you a notice of my intention to refuse your above request under section 24 of the FOI Act because processing your request would amount to a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the department's resources. Accordingly, I initiated a request consultation process under section 24AB of the FOI Act.

On 10 November 2017, you revised your FOI request to the Financial Questionnaire for:

'3 schools (Bishop Druitt College, St Augustine's and St John Paul College) across 4 years (2016, 2014, 2012, 2010). It should only require a single document in each case (refer attached sample), that's 12 documents in total'.

Preliminary Assessment of the Charge

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge for the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of that charge is \$270.15, calculated as follows:

Search and retrieval time: 0.5 at \$15.00 per hour:	\$7.50
Decision-making time: 13.13 hours minus the first 5 hours* at \$20.00 per hour:	\$262.65
TOTAL	\$270.15

*The FOI Act provides that the first five hours of decision-making time are free of charge and this is reflected in the calculation.

I am advised that the department has in its possession of approximately 12 documents totalling 37 pages of material relevant to your request. I estimate that it has taken 30 minutes to locate and retrieve those documents, and will take an additional 18.13 hours to examine the documents, undertake a number of third party consultations and prepare a decision on access.

Required Action

If you would like the department to continue processing your request, you must notify the department in writing within 30 days of receiving this notice that you:

- A. agree to pay the charge (or the required deposit) and pay it;
- B. contend that the charge:
 - (i) has been wrongly assessed; or

- (ii) should be reduced or not imposed; or
 - (iii) both; or
- C. withdraw the request for access.

If you do not provide a written response in accordance with one of Options A, B or C above within 30 days of receiving this notice, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn under subsection 29(2) of the FOI Act.

Alternatively, you may wish to refine the scope of your FOI request. If you would like to discuss this please contact me for assistance.

Further information on options A, B and C is set out below.

Option A – pay the charge

As the charge exceeds \$100, you are required to pay a deposit of \$67.55, which is 25% of the total amount, within 30 days of receiving this notice. You may, of course, elect to pay the charge in full at this point.

The amount due can be paid by cheque or money order made out to the Collector of Public Monies— Education, or by credit card. If you'd like to pay by credit card, please fill out the attached authorisation form and send it back to us.

Please note, the charge is a fee for the *processing* of your request, not a payment for documents. Payment of the charge in full (or deposit) does not guarantee you access to any or all of the documents you have requested. As your request is being processed, the release of documents will be considered by the decision-maker in accordance with the provisions of the FOI Act.

Option B – seek reduction or non-imposition of the charge

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed. Subsection 29(5) of the FOI Act provides that, in deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, the decision-maker must take into account any relevant reasons, including whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship, and whether the giving of access to the documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed, please set out your reasons and the evidence in support of your reasons as clearly as possible. If you believe that payment of the charge would cause you financial hardship, please provide sufficient details of your financial circumstances to enable the decision-maker to make a well-informed decision in this regard.

Option C – withdraw your request

If you wish to withdraw your request you may do so in writing.

Third Party Consultation

Your request also covers documents which contain information about the business affairs of an organisation. Under section 27 of the FOI Act where a request is made for a document containing information about the business affairs of organisations and it appears to the department that those organisations might reasonably wish to contend that the information is exempt under provisions of the FOI Act, the department must give those organisations a reasonable opportunity to make such a submission in support of the contention.

Time limits for processing your request

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that where a notice is sent to an applicant regarding the payment of a charge in respect of a request, the time limit for processing the request is suspended from the date the notice is received until either:

- the day following payment of the charge (in full or the required deposit); or
- if applicable, the day following the notification to the applicant of a decision not to impose the charge.

In addition, given that consultation with third parties is required, subsection 15(6) of the FOI Act extends the standard statutory 30-day time limit for processing requests by another 30 days.

Publication of information in the FOI disclosure log

Information released under the FOI Act may be published in a disclosure log on the department's website. Section 11C of the FOI Act requires this publication, subject to certain exceptions, including where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

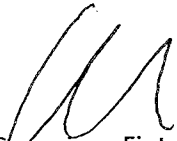
Address for correspondence

Please send all correspondence regarding your FOI request to me at the following address:

Genevieve Fiot
Schools, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch
Department of Education and Training
LOC: C50MA10
GPO Box 9880
CANBERRA ACT 2601

or by email to foi@education.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Genevieve Fiot
Senior Government Lawyer
Schools, Child Care and Corporate Legal Branch

15 November 2017

Credit Card Authorisation

About this form

You have advised the Department of Education and Training that you would like to pay the charge imposed for the processing of your freedom of information (FOI) request by credit card. This form collects the details required from you in order to process that payment by credit card. Please ensure all fields have been filled in correctly.

Part 1: Applicant Details

Name:

Contact number:

Part 2: Credit Card Details

I authorise the Department of Education to debit my credit card in the amount of: \$

(please specify amount in the space provided)

Cardholder's Name (please print name in capital letters):

Credit Card Number:

Credit Card Type (Diner's Card not accepted):

Credit Card Expiry Date:

Card Holders Signature:

Date:

Privacy Statement

The personal information collected on this form is collected by the Department of Education and Training for the purposes of administering payment of the charge imposed for processing your freedom of information request. The information collected will not be disclosed unless authorised or required by law.