



**AFP**  
AUSTRALIAN FEDERAL POLICE

Our ref: CRM2018/574

2 August 2018

Mr Asher Hirsch

By Email: [foi+request-4517-fa113524@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-4517-fa113524@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Hirsch,

**Freedom of Information Request – Section 24AB(2) Notice**

I refer to your email of 19 April 2018 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) seeking access to the following:

*'Any available documents detailing the agreements between AFP and the Indonesian National Police. This may include Memorandum of Understandings, agreements and communications between the two agencies.'*

*Please limit this request to documents between 2000 and 2007.*

*Please further limit the request to only agreements concerning people smuggling, refugees, asylum seekers and irregular or illegal migrants.'*

**Notification**

1. Notice is hereby given under section 24AB(2) of the Act of an intention to refuse to grant access to the documents sought, pursuant to section 24AA of that Act. For the reasons outlined in paragraph 6 below, the Australian Federal Police ("the AFP") is satisfied that the work involved in processing that request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the AFP from its other operations.
2. Tanya is the agency officer with whom you may consult with a view to making the request in such a form that would remove the ground for refusal.
3. The following information is provided to assist you in making a request in such a form that the ground for the section 24AA refusal is removed.
4. Preliminary enquiries concerning your request for information have been made which indicate that there is a large volume of documents which fall within the scope of your request.
5. The AFP maintains that to process the request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the AFP from its other operations. Following is a forecast of the probable resource demands posed by your FOI Act request.

6. Documents held by the AFP's international post in Jakarta are saved electronically. A preliminary search was undertaken which produced a result of 4792 documents identified as possibly being relevant to the terms of your request. It is estimated that it would take over 120 hours (3 weeks) of AFP staff time for the search and retrieval of documents. This is a conservative estimate based on documents located at post and does not include identifying all documents held by our International Operations and Governance portfolios. This time does not include FOI staff time to assess and compile the information, consult third parties, the decision-making time and notification of a decision to you. In addition, electronic documents commenced in 2004, to search prior to that date would require extensive searching of holdings in hard copy from which would be onerous to undertake. This is a burden in terms of resources and is made relevant to a section 24AA(1) decision by virtue of sections 24AA(2)(a), (b), (c) and (d).

7. The AFP is of the opinion that to process your request in its current form would be an unreasonable diversion of AFP resources and a substantial burden on the AFP Freedom of Information Team which will substantially impact on other requests for information to the detriment of a number of other applicants.

8. You could consider narrowing your request within a reasonable form which would remove the ground for the section 24AB refusal. As a suggestion, you may wish to consider significantly reducing the time frame to commence from 2004, excluding all documents held by Jakarta post, only MOU's or agreements, final versions, excluding emails and correspondence.

9. As noted above, I would of course be available to discuss the matter. Should you not avail yourself of this opportunity to consult within 14 days of the date of this letter, notice will be given of a decision to refuse access on the basis stated above.

10. An extract of sections 24AA and AB of the Act is attached for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Jacqueline Ellery  
Principal FOI Officer/Team Leader  
Freedom of Information  
Australian Federal Police

#### **24AA When does a *practical refusal reason* exist?**

- (1) For the purposes of section 24, a ***practical refusal reason*** exists in relation to a request for a document if either (or both) of the following applies:
  - (a) the work involved in processing the request:
    - (i) in the case of an agency—would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the agency from its other operations; or
    - (ii) in the case of a Minister—would substantially and unreasonably interfere with the performance of the Minister’s functions;
  - (b) the request does not satisfy the requirement in paragraph 15(2)(b) (identification of documents).
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), but without limiting the matters to which the agency or Minister may have regard, in deciding whether a practical refusal reason exists, the agency or Minister must have regard to the resources that would have to be used for the following:
  - (a) identifying, locating or collating the documents within the filing system of the agency, or the office of the Minister;
  - (b) deciding whether to grant, refuse or defer access to a document to which the request relates, or to grant access to an edited copy of such a document, including resources that would have to be used for:
    - (i) examining the document; or
    - (ii) consulting with any person or body in relation to the request;
  - (c) making a copy, or an edited copy, of the document;
  - (d) notifying any interim or final decision on the request.
- (3) In deciding whether a practical refusal reason exists, an agency or Minister must not have regard to:
  - (a) any reasons that the applicant gives for requesting access; or
  - (b) the agency’s or Minister’s belief as to what the applicant’s reasons are for requesting access; or
  - (c) any maximum amount, specified in the regulations, payable as a charge for processing a request of that kind.

#### **24AB What is a *request consultation process*?**

##### *Scope*

- (1) This section sets out what is a ***request consultation process*** for the purposes of section 24.

##### *Requirement to notify*

- (2) The agency or Minister must give the applicant a written notice stating the following:
  - (a) an intention to refuse access to a document in accordance with a request;
  - (b) the practical refusal reason;
  - (c) the name of an officer of the agency or member of staff of the Minister (the ***contact person***) with whom the applicant may consult during a period;
  - (d) details of how the applicant may contact the contact person;
  - (e) that the period (the ***consultation period***) during which the applicant may consult with the contact person is 14 days after the day the applicant is given the notice.



*Assistance to revise request*

- (3) If the applicant contacts the contact person during the consultation period in accordance with the notice, the agency or Minister must take reasonable steps to assist the applicant to revise the request so that the practical refusal reason no longer exists.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), **reasonable steps** includes the following:
  - (a) giving the applicant a reasonable opportunity to consult with the contact person;
  - (b) providing the applicant with any information that would assist the applicant to revise the request.

*Extension of consultation period*

- (5) The contact person may, with the applicant's agreement, extend the consultation period by written notice to the applicant.

*Outcome of request consultation process*

- (6) The applicant must, before the end of the consultation period, do one of the following, by written notice to the agency or Minister:
  - (a) withdraw the request;
  - (b) make a revised request;
  - (c) indicate that the applicant does not wish to revise the request.
- (7) The request is taken to have been withdrawn under subsection (6) at the end of the consultation period if:
  - (a) the applicant does not consult the contact person during the consultation period in accordance with the notice; or
  - (b) the applicant does not do one of the things mentioned in subsection (6) before the end of the consultation period.

*Consultation period to be disregarded in calculating processing period*

- (8) The period starting on the day an applicant is given a notice under subsection (2) and ending on the day the applicant does one of the things mentioned in paragraph (6)(b) or (c) is to be disregarded in working out the 30 day period mentioned in paragraph 15(5)(b).

Note: Paragraph 15(5)(b) requires that an agency or Minister take all reasonable steps to notify an applicant of a decision on the applicant's request within 30 days after the request is made.

*No more than one request consultation process required*

- (9) To avoid doubt, this section only obliges the agency or Minister to undertake a request consultation process once for any particular request.