



25 May 2018

FOI ref: 2317

Mr James Adams

By email: [foi+request-4536-c4fbb1a5@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-4536-c4fbb1a5@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Adams

### Freedom of Information Request - Decision

I refer to your request dated 25 April 2018 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the **Act**) to the following:

*Any documents (including reports, briefings and memos) that discuss universal basic income initiatives (either in Australia or elsewhere). For clarity, I interested in any document that discusses universal basic income pilots, negative income taxes, unconditional cash transfers, papers that model the effects of this sort of scheme, and any document that discusses design issues associated with introducing a universal basic income, whether hypothetically or otherwise. Please note that I am only interested in documents dated since 1 January 2000.*

On 18 May 2018 the scope was revised as follows:

*Any reports or briefings that discuss the feasibility of Universal Basic Income initiatives. By "universal basic income" initiatives, I mean schemes that involve paying a sum of money to at least the majority of Australians; I do not consider schemes that provide income assistance to those on low incomes only without any other conditions to be universal basic income initiatives. I am only interested in reports or briefings that were provided to one or more Ministers or were developed for audiences external to The Treasury. I am not interested in emails or any other form of internal discussion documents.*

The agreed date range was from 1 January 2014.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the Act.

### Decision

I am unable to grant you access to the documents requested as Treasury is not in possession of any such documents. I must therefore refuse your request under section 24A(1) of the Act.

Section 24A(1) of the Act provides that an agency may refuse a request for access to a document if all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document and the agency is satisfied that (a) the document is in its possession but cannot be found, or (b) does not exist.

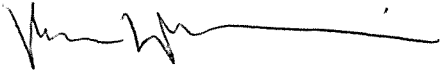
On this occasion I am satisfied that all reasonable steps to locate the documents you have requested have been taken by the department and no such documents exist.

Copies to:

**Rights of Review**

A statement setting out your rights of review in this matter is attached.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vicki Wilkinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vicki Wilkinson  
Division Head  
Social Policy Division

## **INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW**

### **1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION**

Section 54 of the Freedom of Information Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request.

Application for a review of the decision must be made in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you could set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

Application for a review of the decision should be addressed to:

FOI  
The Treasury  
Langton Crescent  
PARKES ACT 2600

**OR**

### **2. APPLICATION TO AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (INFORMATION COMMISSIONER) FOR REVIEW OF DECISION**

Section 54L of the Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

Applications for review must be in writing and must:

- give details of how notices must be sent to you; and
- include a copy of the notice of decision.

You should send your application for review to:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

**AND/OR**

### **3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER**

Section 70 of the Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be directed to the following address:

The Information Commissioner  
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner  
GPO Box 5218  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.

