



Our reference: RQ18/02489  
Your reference: FOI 23544

Department of Veterans' Affairs  
By email: [information.access@dva.gov.au](mailto:information.access@dva.gov.au)

## Extension of time under s 15AB

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 August 2018, in which you applied for an extension of time for the Department of Veterans' Affairs (the Department) to process Ms Verity Pane's request, received 16 July 2018, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act).

You have sought an extension on the basis that the current processing period is insufficient to deal adequately with Ms Pane's request, because it is voluminous and complex.

### Contact with Ms Pane

On 31 August 2018, the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) wrote to Ms Pane to seek her view on the Department's request. Ms Pane responded to our inquiries and provided comments which I have taken into consideration.

### Decision

As a delegate of the Information Commissioner, I am authorised to make decisions on applications for extensions of time under s 15AB of the FOI Act.

I have decided to grant the Department an extension of time under s 15AB(2) of the FOI Act **to 1 October 2018**. In coming to this decision I have considered factors including your advice that:

- Ms Pane asked the Department to create a document outlining the Department's legal expenditure data relating for financial year 2015/16.
- Some of the data is not readily available and will need to be recalled from off-site storage.
- The information needs to be collated and the document requested by Ms Pane created from the information in the format requested.

- The Department estimates it would take 30 hours to finalise the request.

By granting an extension of time it is anticipated that the Department will provide a well-reasoned and better managed decision.

Ms Pane will be notified of this decision.

## Contact

If you have any questions about this email, please contact me on 02 9284 9745 or via email [Carl.English@oaic.gov.au](mailto:Carl.English@oaic.gov.au). In all correspondence please include OAIC reference number RQ18/02489.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. English', is placed over a light blue rectangular background.

Carl English  
Assistant Review and Investigation Officer  
Freedom of Information Dispute Resolution

7 September 2018