



Australian Government
Independent Parliamentary
Expenses Authority

Reference: IPEA FOI 20/06
Contact: FOI Coordinator
e-mail: foi@ipea.gov.au

Ms Evelyn Doyle
via RighttoKnow: foi+request-5554-d5ee232f@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ms Doyle

Freedom of Information Request – IPEA FOI 20/06

I refer to your email to the Department of Finance, dated 1 August 2019, in which you sought access to the following documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act):

... the COMCAR and hire car records for former politician, Mrs Bronwyn Bishop between March 2009 and December 25, 2010 in relation to travel in regional NSW. As well as the usual travel entitlement reports for that period, I am also seeking copies of the actual bookings entered into the COMCAR reservations database including those transferred to government contracted hire car companies. Please limit the scope to include only travel involving visits which include any the following locations: Mudgee, Wollar, Ulan and the Bylong Valley region of NSW.

That part of your request relating to hire car records was transferred to the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority (IPEA) on 16 August 2019.

Notice of liability to pay a charge

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act and the *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 1982* (Regulations), I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge for processing your FOI request and am notifying you accordingly.

My preliminary assessment of that charge is as follows:

	Rate	Units	Charge
Search & retrieval	\$15 per hour	4.50 hours	\$ 67.50
Decision-making	\$20 per hour	4.00 hours	\$ 80.00
First 5 hours free			\$ 80.00
TOTAL			\$ 67.50
Deposit			\$ 20.00

In accordance with the Regulations, this estimate includes five hours of decision-making time free of charge.

Payment of charges

If you agree to pay the charge, processing your request will resume as soon as IPEA receives a payment, either in full or a deposit.

The full amount of the charge is \$67.50 and the deposit is \$20.00. If you choose to pay the deposit, you will only receive the requested documents on payment of the balance of the charge.

You can pay the charge by:

- cheque/money order made payable to the Collector of Public Monies and addressed to the FOI Coordinator
Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority
One Canberra Avenue FORREST ACT 2603
- credit card by providing IPEA with your Mastercard or Visa credit card details and authorising IPEA to charge that amount to the card
- direct debit to:
INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY EXPENSES AUTHORITY – IPEA
DEPARTMENTAL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
BSB: 062-987 and Account number: 10020756.

Alternatively, under paragraph 29(1)(f) of the FOI Act, you may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, should be reduced or waived in its entirety. If you wish to contend that the charge should be reduced or waived, you should do so either on the basis that paying the charge would cause you financial hardship or on the grounds that providing access to the documents would be in the general public interest. If your request for a waiver or reduction of the charge is refused, you will be advised of your review rights under section 54 of the FOI Act.

If you fail to respond to IPEA in a manner described above within 30 days of the date on this notice, you will be taken to have withdrawn your request.

Processing Time

In relation to the preliminary assessment of charges, in accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the time period for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice and resumes on either the day you pay the deposit or the day on which IPEA makes a decision not to impose a charge. The processing time may also be affected by third party consultation.

Extension of Time - Third Party Consultation

As documents falling within the scope of your request may involve the unreasonable disclosure of the personal information of a third party, I am obliged under sections 27 and 27A of the FOI Act to consult with the third party and give them an opportunity to make submissions regarding the possible disclosure of the documents. I am required to take these submissions into account in making my decision and determining whether a document is an exempt document. To provide time for the consultation process, subsection 15(6) of the FOI Act extends the period in which to respond to your request by an additional 30 days. You will be notified of the due date once you have advised IPEA in relation to the charges.

Further Information

Please contact the FOI Coordinator, Andra Eisenberg on foi@ipea.gov.au, if you wish to discuss your request or the contents of this notice.

Yours sincerely



Petra Gartmann

Branch Manager

Transparency, Assurance and Legal Branch

Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority

One Canberra Avenue, FORREST ACT 2603

28 August 2019