

Mr Ben Grubb
By email:foi+request-
6163577b05@righttoknow.org.au



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

Our Reference: MYM 60089
Contact Name: Kate Roberts
Contact address: foi@ato.gov.au

21 February 2012

Dear Mr Grubb

Thank you for your time on the phone to discuss the scope of your FOI request.

The current scope of your request is very broad and we estimate it may cover up to 5000 pages of material. A request of this size will take the ATO longer than the initial 30 day statutory timeframe to process.

I have set out below the options we discussed for reducing the scope:

- Reduce the scope to a briefing document that provides an overview of the matter
- Continue with the broader scope of the request, and reduce the overall number of relevant documents in the following ways:
 - removing duplicates,
 - not requiring TFNs or other identifiable taxpayer information (which is information protected by the tax law secrecy provision and could not be disclosed),
 - only requiring final email chains, and
 - removing from scope purely administrative documents such as meeting requests or other internal management information

I note that if you proceed with the second suggestion there will still be a large number of documents to be located and reviewed. While the overall timeframe for processing the request will be reduced, we would still need to review a large number of the identified documents for relevant information. I consider we would still need additional time either by agreement with you, or through an extension granted by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner to complete the request.

If you have any other suggestion you would like to make to reduce the scope of the request I would be happy to discuss them.

This letter also serves as our formal acknowledgement of your request. If you wish to contact us about the request, our reference is MYM 60089.

Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance with this matter.

Regards

Kate Roberts
Principal Lawyer
Legal Service Branch
Australian Taxation Office