



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Mr Andy Johnson

By email: foi+request-6182-eefd7820@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Johnson

Freedom of Information Request Number 19/20-107

I refer to your request received by the Department of Social Services (the department) on 25 February 2020 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

"...a copy of all reports / documents delivered by consulting firm McKinsey & Company to the Department since 1990. In addition, I would like to request a copy of each invoice paid to McKinsey for each report (including \$ fees paid, rate card applied, and other commercial terms)."

As advised, the department will exclude staff names, contact details, mobile numbers and signatures contained within documents that fall within the scope of a FOI request, unless you specifically request such details. Duplicates and drafts are also excluded. The department will only consider final versions of documents.

Public interest

In determining whether to reduce the imposed charge in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I am required to consider 'whether the giving of access to the documents in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public'. This means that there must be a benefit flowing to the general public, or a substantial section of the public, from disclosure of the documents falling within scope of your request.

I acknowledge there is a public interest factor in this instance given that the disclosure of the documents promotes effective oversight of public expenditure. Accordingly, I have determined that the charge should be reduced.

Preliminary assessment of the charge

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect to processing of your request. My preliminary estimate of the charge is calculated as follows:

Process	
Search and retrieval @ \$15.00 per hour	\$82.50
Decision-making @ \$20.00 per hour	\$281.58
<i>Less 5 hours free</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>
	<u>\$264.08</u>
<i>Less 15% public interest discount</i>	<i>\$39.61</i>
Total	\$224.47
Deposit	\$56.12

Required action

If you would like the department to continue processing your request, you must provide a written response in accordance with A, B or C below within 30 days of receiving this notice.

A. pay the charge

If you agree to pay the processing charge, your request will resume as soon as the department receives a payment either in full or a deposit. The discounted amount is **\$224.47** and enables you to receive a decision in relation to your request and any document suitable for release.

Regulation 12 of the Charges Regulations provides that the department can receive a deposit. The required deposit for this request is **\$56.12**. Payment of a deposit entitles you to receive a decision in relation to your request with any relevant documents withheld until the balance of charge payment is received.

B. contend the charge

You have the option to contend the charge:

- (i) has been wrongly assessed; or
- (ii) should be reduced or not imposed; or
- (iii) both

Section 29(5) of the FOI Act provides that, in deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, the decision-maker must take into account any relevant reasons, including whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you financial hardship, and whether the giving of access to the documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charge please set out your reasons and the evidence in support of your reasons as clearly as possible. If you believe that payment of the charge would cause you financial hardship, please provide sufficient details of your financial circumstances to enable the decision-maker to make a well-informed decision in this regard.

C. withdraw the request

If you wish to withdraw your request you may do so in writing. Alternatively, if you do not provide a written response to this notice within 30 days of receiving it, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn under section 29(2) of the FOI Act.

Alternatively, if you wish to refine the scope of your FOI request, please contact the department for assistance.

Time limits for processing your request

The time limit for processing the request is suspended from the date this notice is received until either:

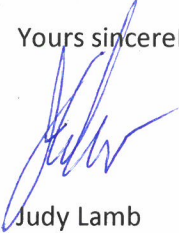
- (a) the day following payment of the deposit or charge; or
- (b) if applicable, the day following notification of a decision not to impose the charge.

Further information

In accordance with the requirements of section 11C of the FOI Act, the department is required to publish, on its website, information released under the FOI Act within ten working days of the applicant being given access to the documents.

Should you have any queries concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Judy Lamb
Assistant Director, Freedom of Information
Government and Executive Services Branch

13 March 2020



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

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By signing this form you are agreeing to pay the charges notified to you by the Department of Social Services. Once our office receives this form, the department will generate an invoice in order for you to make payment of the agreed charges.

Please sign and return the form to foi@dss.gov.au. Alternatively you can send it via mail to:
 Freedom of Information
 Government and Executive Services Branch
 Department of Social Services
 PO Box 9820
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

Acceptance of charge

I, Andy Johnson accept the charges as set out in the Preliminary Assessment of Charges.
 I acknowledge that the details provided below are true and correct, and upon return of this document, I will be invoiced for the amount set out in the notice of charge.

- I elect to pay the **discounted amount** of \$224.47 I elect to pay the **deposit amount** of \$56.12

 Print Name

 Signature

 Date

Required information

In order to proceed, the department requires the following information from you to raise an invoice.

Full name / Organisation: (Include ABN if applicable)		
Postal Address:		
Contact numbers:	Home/Business	
	Mobile	
Email:		