



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

14/7509

18 June 2014

Megalfar

By Email Only: foi+request-639-3ce3d72f@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Megalfar

Freedom of Information Request no. FOI14/111

I refer to your request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) for access to documents relating to any information about proposals of internet filters, anti-piracy measures, and lobby groups pressuring the Government.

I am an officer authorised under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

I believe that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of this Department from its other operations due to its broad scope. This is called a 'practical refusal reason' (section 24AA).

On this basis, I intend to refuse access to the documents you have requested. However, before I make a final decision to do this, you have an opportunity to revise your request. This is called a 'request consultation process' as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act. You have 14 days to respond to this notice in one of the ways set out below.

Why I intend to refuse your request

You have sought documents relating to:

"...any information to the proposals of Internet Filters, Anti-Piracy measures, And lobby groups pressuring the government on such matters via the Department of Attorney-General.

Or any other legislation, law or force measures lobbied by lobby groups in the Anti-Piracy fight."

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because I have determined that processing this request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of this agency.

I have considered the elements provided in subsection 24AA(2) of the FOI Act in making this determination, including the resources required to:

- identify, locate or collate the documents within the filing system of the Department
- decide whether to grant, refuse or defer access to a document, or to grant access to an edited copy (including resources required to examine the document, or conduct any necessary consultation)

- make a copy, or an edited copy, of the documents, and
- notify you of any interim or final decision on the request.

To inform my decision, Departmental officers conducted a search of the Department's electronic records management system, which identified approximately 500 documents falling within the scope of your request, comprising approximately 1,500 pages.

Departmental officers have assessed a sample of the documents to provide an estimate of the time it would take to process your request. Given the volume of material and the complexity of issues involved, it is estimated that it will take three hours to search for, and retrieve, all relevant material, and a further 40 hours to search files, identify relevant pages and prepare schedules detailing the relevant documents. Further, it is estimated that it will take 120 hours to examine the documents, undertake consultations, decide whether to release or refuse access or to grant access to an edited copy, and make necessary edits (at 5 minutes per page). This is a total of 163 hours of work, equating to almost 21 full working days.

Given the size of the Departmental area dealing with this request, and the amount of other operational work the area does, I consider that it is unreasonable to divert one or more persons to process this request for 21 days. I am satisfied that spending 21 working days on processing this request would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources from its other operations.

Request consultation process

You now have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed.

Revising your request can mean narrowing the scope of the request to make it more manageable or explaining in more detail the documents you wish to access. For example, by providing more specific information about exactly what documents you are interested in, such as limiting your request to documents created within a particular timeframe, the Department will be able to pinpoint the documents more quickly and avoid using excessive resources to process documents that you are not interested in obtaining.

Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following, in writing:

- withdraw your request
- make a revised request, or
- advise the Department that you do not wish to revise your request.

The consultation period is for 14 days and will commence on the day after you receive this notice.

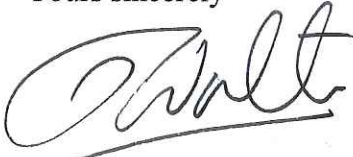
During this period, you are welcome to seek assistance from the contact person I have listed below to revise your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we will recommence processing it. (Please note that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the 30 day time limit for processing your request.)

If you do not do one of the three things listed above during the consultation period or you do not consult the contact person during this period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Contact officer

If you would like to revise your request or have any questions, please contact Prishika Raj by email at foi@ag.gov.au or by telephone on (02) 6141 6666.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Walter
Assistant Secretary
Commercial and Administrative Law Branch

