



Administrative Appeals Tribunal

FOI ref: 2020/0070

28 July 2020

Mr Alan Ashmore

Email: foi+request-6454-cba79195@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Ashmore

Notice of Decision for Freedom of Information Request no. 2020/0070

The purpose of this letter is to give you a decision about access to documents that you have requested under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)*.

Summary

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

You lodged an FOI request on 2 July 2020 for access to

NUMBER OF NEW APPLICATIONS TO THE AAT BY VETERANS:

I request the number of applications made to the AAT by veterans following the rejection of their claim by DVA and/or the VRB for the following period:

- *1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018,*
- *1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019,*
- *1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019, and*
- *1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020.*

On 14 July 2020, your request was revised to:

The number of applications lodged in the Veterans' Appeals Division for the following periods:

- *1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018,*
- *1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019,*
- *1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019, and*
- *1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020.*

As you requested statistics that do not already exist in a discrete document, I have processed your request under section 17 of the FOI Act. This means that I have used our existing computer systems to retrieve data from the AAT's case management systems to produce a written document for you.

As a result, I identified the following documents which fall within the scope of your request:

- **Attachment A:** Applications lodged to the Veterans' Appeals Division of the AAT in specified periods as at **23 July 2020**.

Decision

I have decided to release these documents to you in full.

I have taken the following into account in making my decision:

- your email received on 2 July 2020
- the FOI Act, specifically section 17
- the guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under s 93A of the FOI Act.

Your review rights

Information about how you can apply for a review of this decision or complain about how we have dealt with this matter is set out in the attached fact sheet, FOI 2.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact me at foi@aat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Angela L

Authorised FOI Officer (APS 6)

Attachments

FOI 2 – Information about reviews and complaints under the Freedom of Information Act
Attachment A: Applications lodged to the Veterans' Appeals Division of the AAT in specified periods as at **23 July 2020**

Information about reviews and complaints under the Freedom of Information Act

What should I do prior to applying for internal review or contacting the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner?

Before you apply for an internal review or contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, we recommend that you telephone the officer who made the FOI decision. It is often possible to resolve concerns or answer your questions using this approach and, if not, the officer will be able to assist you in applying for review.

How do I apply for internal review to the AAT?

You can apply to us for an internal review of the FOI decision. The application for internal review must be made within 30 days or such further period as we allow, after the day the decision is notified to you. To apply for an internal review you must do so in writing. You may also wish to explain why you are not satisfied with the decision. A different and more senior officer authorised under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) will conduct the internal review and make a new decision within 30 days after receipt of your application.

If you have already applied for internal review and want to seek a further review of that decision, you will need to apply to the Australian Information Commissioner.

How do I apply for review to the Australian Information Commissioner?

You may also apply directly to the Australian Information Commissioner for review of the FOI decision. The application for review must be made within 60 days after the day notice of the decision was given. An application for review must be in writing, include details of how notices in relation to the review are to be sent to you and include a copy of the decision. You may also wish to explain why you are not satisfied with the decision. An online application form is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website, details of which are provided below.

What if I want to make a complaint about the handling of a Freedom of Information request?

If you have a complaint about the way in which we have processed your request for access under the FOI Act you can ask the Australian Information Commissioner to investigate. An online complaint form is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website, details of which are provided below.

Where can I find further information or contact details for the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner?

Further information is available on the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au and you can contact the office on 1300 363 992 or by email at enquiries@oaic.gov.au.

Attachment A

Applications lodged to the Veterans' Appeals Division of the AAT in specified periods as at **23 July 2020**:

Period	Applications lodged
1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018	147
1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019	114
1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019	93
1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020	101

Note: *The Administrative Appeals Tribunal is currently preparing our official 2019-20 Financial Year statistics. In the course of that work, very minor adjustments to statistics are possible. The counts given for the two periods covering the 2019-20 Financial Years are correct at the time of preparing this information.*