



Julian Smythe

via email: foi+request-661-7e56bf03@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Smythe

Your request

I refer to your request of 26 June 2014 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), a copy of which is at Attachment A.

In my view, your request as presently worded does not provide information that is reasonably necessary for the department to be able to identify relevant documents.

On this basis, I intend to refuse access to the documents you 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.

Time for consultation

You have 14 days, from the receipt of this notice, to consult with the department concerning your request. The department will assist you to revise your request, so that the desired documents are sufficiently identified.

Under sub-section 24AB(6) of the FOI Act, you are required within the 14 day period to:

- withdraw the request
- make a revised request or
- indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

It may be helpful for you to know, the FOI Act and Part 3 of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner FOI Guidelines provide the public right of access is to existing documents, rather than to requests for information in general.

If you do not consult with the department or do one of these things within the next 14 days, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn. Even with consultation, if the scope of your request cannot be sufficiently revised, the request may be refused.

To assist you with a revision of your request, you may wish to consider specifying:

- the categories and content of the documents you are seeking
- a date range for your request.

Please note the time period for making a decision in response to your request is suspended until the conclusion of the consultation process described in this letter.

Contact details

Should you wish to discuss any issues arising from this letter then please contact
FOI Officer Lauren Johnson on 02 6272 4412 or email foi@daff.gov.au for assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Catherine Smith".

Catherine Smith
FOI Director
Freedom of Information Section
Office of the Chief Lawyer

30 June 2014