

T Wilson-Brown
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Good morning

FOI application

Thank you for your email received on 3 October 2020 in relation to a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the ACT Electoral Commission.

The default period for processing FOI request applications is 20 working days after the request has been received, if no consultation is required in order to process the request. If you, as the applicant, are notified that a relevant third party is being consulted as part of the processing of the request, the period is extended by an additional 15 working days.

Accordingly, you should expect a decision in relation to your FOI request by 30 October 2020 (if no consultation is required), or 20 November 2020 if a relevant third party is being consulted.

Elections ACT is a small organisation with an ongoing FTE of twelve. Given your familiarity with electoral management systems and the environment that surrounds the conduct of an electoral event I am sure you can appreciate we are in the midst of one of the most critical, incredibly busy periods of delivering the 2020 ACT Legislative Assembly Election.

The administration requirements of a formal FOI request will be particularly challenging for our organisation in these circumstances. This is particularly the case given the wide scope of your request.

In accordance with the ACT Ombudsman's FOI guidelines, respondents may negotiate with the applicant for extra time to process an access application. Accordingly, I seek your agreement to commence the 20 working days on 17 October 2020. If agreed you should then expect a decision in relation to your FOI request by 13 November 2020.

I appreciate your close consideration of the deadline and request that you respond accordingly. If you would like to contact me directly on this matter, please do so at rohan.spence@act.gov.au or on 02 6205 0224.

Yours sincerely



Ro Spence
Deputy Electoral Commissioner

12 October 2020