

T Wilson-Brown
foi+request-7099-fc546fb7@righttoknow.org.au

Dear T Wilson-Brown

Decision notice on your access application

I refer to your access application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received 22 February 2021. This application requested access to:

“access to documents held by the Commission, including correspondence, relating to paper vote scanning accuracy in the 2020 election. I apply for access to documents about:

Manual checking of scanned paper ballots, including:

- The number of scans flagged for manual checking
- The number of votes considered formal and informal after manual checking
- Estimates or discussion of the number of ballot papers which were actually ambiguous, but were not flagged by the scanner for manual checking

Audits of paper ballot scanning, including:

- The number of formal and informal ballots audited
- The number of errors found
- Any reviews or changes to the audit method or process

The overall accuracy of the process, including:

- Comparisons of the ACT’s electronic scanning and counting accuracy with the accuracy of scanned or manual recounts in other jurisdictions
- Any errors discovered in paper ballot scans or counts”

Authority

I am an officer authorised by the ACT Electoral Commissioner to make decisions about access to public sector information, in accordance with section 18 of the FOI Act.

Decision

I have identified eight documents containing information within the scope of your access application. These are outlined in the attached *Schedule of documents*.

I have decided to:

- grant part access to one document; and
- grant full access to the remaining seven documents.

For the reasons outlined in the attached *Reasons for decision*, I have redacted some of the information within the part-access document. This is because the information is out-of-scope for the access application and it is also contrary to the public interest information.

Disclosure of information

The released documents are attached.

Disclosure log

Please note that section 28 of the FOI Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on our disclosure log www.elections.act.gov.au/about_us/freedom_of_information

This means that if access to the information is granted, it will also be made available to everyone on our website, unless the access application is an application for your personal, business, commercial, financial or professional information.

Review rights

You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under section 73 of the FOI Act. An application for review must be made within 20 days of receipt of this decision notice.

You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:

Email (preferred): actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Post: The ACT Ombudsman GPO Box 442 CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/improving-the-act/freedom-of-information

Yours sincerely



Ro Spence
Deputy Electoral Commissioner

15 April 2021