

T Wilson-Brown
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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 24 February 2021. This application requested access to:

“access to documents held by the Commission, including correspondence, relating to the QR codes used in the 2020 election.

I apply for access to documents containing information about:

- Audits of QR codes issued for voting and administrative actions
- Missing or extra QR codes
- Inconsistencies in QR code production, handling, or destruction
- Reviews or changes to the audit method or process
- The algorithm used to create voter QR code data

I also apply for documents containing totals and statistics about the number of QR codes:

- Printed
- Issued to voters or polling officials
- Scanned
- Recovered from voters or polling officials
- Destroyed

And how many times each QR code was scanned.

To be clear, I am seeking summary statistics and individual QR code exception reports. You can exclude documents that only consist of detailed information about large numbers of typical QR codes.

Just a quick amendment:

I would also like documents containing information about:

- The algorithm used to generate the admin QR codes which authenticate polling officials
- Audits and summary statistics for the QR codes used during user acceptance testing, since they are identical to the QR codes used during the election.

As a general clarification, I am seeking documents related to the following Elections ACT processes:

Election officials in electronic polling places account for e-voting cards in much the same way as they do for paper ballots. They provide records of e-voting cards issued which are compared with the number of electronic votes cast.

Reports of errors, votes not concluded as described on page 14 of the eVACS Operational Concept Description

The various checks and reconciliations described on page 41 of the HAZOP Study eVACS a election system, which contain information about discrepancies between the number of e-voting cards issued, and the number of votes recorded.

I am also seeking documents related to similar admin QR code tracking processes that Elections ACT carries out to ensure election security. And I am seeking other documents related to QR Code security, as specified in my request.”

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 twelve 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 five documents; 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 documents. This is because the information is either out-of-scope for the access application or 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ro Spence', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ro Spence
Deputy Electoral Commissioner

19 April 2021