



12 August 2021

Ms Melissa Jones
BY EMAIL: foi+request-7421-e22abc16@righttoknow.org.au

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 21/07/01006
File Number: OBJ2021/22218

Dear Ms Jones

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 13 July 2021, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to document under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

1 Scope of request

You have requested access to the following document:

Please provide a dollar figure for the last 5 financial year's general ledger for the department.

We are not asking for the details being the GL just the expenditure by line item for the department for the 5 years.

2 Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access document or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines)
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the document to which you sought access

4 Document in scope of request

The Department has identified one document as falling within the scope of your request. This document was in the possession of the Department on 13 July 2021 when your request was received.

5 Decision

The decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department which falls within the scope of your request is as follows:

- Exempt one document from release

6 Reasons for Decision

6.1 *Section 4(1) of the FOI Act – material maintained for reference purposes*

Section 4(1) “document” part (d) of the FOI Act provides that a document for the purpose of the FOI Act does not include material maintained for reference purposes that is otherwise publicly available.

The document that provides financial information relating to the Department’s expenditure over the last five years is available in the relevant Annual Reports. Annual Reports for the Department, including the previous Department of Immigration and Border Protection, are available at Annual Reports (www.homeaffairs.gov.au).

As the Department’s Annual Reports are publicly available on our website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au I consider that you are not entitled to access to this document under the FOI Act. I have therefore decided that the document you have requested will not be considered in this FOI request.

7 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

8 Your Review Rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au

OR

By mail to:

Freedom of Information Section
Department of Home Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>.

9 Making a Complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

10 Contacting the FOI Section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Elaine

Position number 60097486

Authorised Decision Maker

Department of Home Affairs