



Australian Government

Department of Health

Department Reference: FOI 044-1415

Dr Tim Senior
foi+request-750-e0521839@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Dr Senior

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: NOTICE OF LIABILITY TO PAY A CHARGE

I refer to your request of 26 August 2014 to the Department of Health, which was subsequently revised on 12 October 2014, in which you have sought access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to:

"copies of minutes, notes and correspondence specifically relating to Private Health Insurance companies or their representatives, [as defined below], and the Minister or Department of Health officials relating to either:

- 1. The trial of Medibank Private and the Independent Practitioner Network working together to provide beneficial access to care for Medibank Private members attending those services; or*
- 2. Discussions relating to the entry of Private Health Insurance companies into the provision or funding of General Practice services (as they would be defined for the purposes of the Medicare Benefits Schedule)."*

I have also taken into account the parameters of your original request that relevant documents are those generated between 7 September 2013 and 26 August 2014, and defined health funds as those registered under the *Private Health Insurance Act 2007* (the Act). Additionally, on 3 November 2014 in discussion with a departmental officer you agreed that 'correspondence' would exclude 'email correspondence'.

Duplicate documents have also been excluded from the scope of your request.

Charges

I have decided, in accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of your request.

Under paragraph 29(1)(f) of the FOI Act you are required to notify the Department in writing within 30 days after this notice was given to you one of the following:

- that you agree to pay the charge;
- that you wish to make a contention that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed; or

- if you wish to contend please see further details below.
- that you withdraw your request.

Preliminary Assessment

In accordance with paragraph 29(1)(b) of the FOI Act my preliminary assessment of the charge is \$1071.10. This has been calculated as follows:

search and retrieval time (including time spent locating relevant files and collating relevant documents contained on those files)	25.72 hours @ \$15.00 per hour	\$385.75
decision making time (including time spent examining the documents, considering exemptions, undertaking consultation, writing the decision and preparing any documents for release)	5 hours @ \$0.00 per hour 33.69 hours @ \$20.00 per hour	\$ 0.00 \$673.75
photocopies of documents		\$11.60
TOTAL		\$1071.10

Deposit

I have also decided that you are required to pay a deposit. As the preliminary assessment is greater than \$100.00 a deposit of 25% is required, this being \$267.75.

Payment of a deposit will be taken as your authority for us to proceed with the processing of your request and your agreement to pay the full charge in which case you will become liable to the Commonwealth for the full cost of the processing charge. Your deposit payment (cheque or credit card) should be sent to either of the following:

FOI@health.gov.au

FOI Coordinator (MDP 350)
Department of Health
GPO Box 9848
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Contention that the charge has been wrongly assessed, should be reduced or not imposed

Under the FOI Act you have the right to contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, should be reduced or not imposed. If you choose to make such a contention the matters that I am required by subsection 29(5) of the FOI Act to take into account include:

- whether the payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause financial hardship to you or the person on whose behalf the application was made; and
- whether the giving of access to the document[s] in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

Timeframe for providing you with a decision

The date for providing you with a decision will be later than that previously advised because processing of your request is suspended from the date you receive this notice. Counting of the 30 calendar days will resume when either you pay a deposit or any contention about the charge has been resolved.

Relevant provisions

The FOI Act, including the provisions referenced in this notice can be accessed from the ComLaw website using the following link: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>

If you require clarification of any of the matters discussed in this letter you should contact the Department's FOI Coordinator on (02) 6289 1666, or by email at FOI@health.gov.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'SP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Shane Porter
Assistant Secretary
Private Health Insurance Branch

10 November 2014