



**Australian Government**

**Department of Health**

Department Reference: FOI 2545

Jim

via email: [foi+request-7622-c3ecfe9f@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-7622-c3ecfe9f@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Jim

**NOTICE OF DECISION UNDER SECTION 24A  
OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982**

I refer to your request of 22 July 2021 to the Department of Health (the department) seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act) in the following terms:

*I would like to request some information regarding the number of COVID cases between the dates of 22nd March 2020 and 22nd July 2020.*

*I would like to request the number of cases be broken down into;*

- \* How many cases who have had the 1st dose of COVID Vaccine.*
- \* How many cases who have had the 2nd dose of COVID Vaccine.*
- \* How many cases who have not have had the COVID Vaccine.*

On 11 August 2021, the department wrote to you advising that the information you are seeking would more appropriately be held by the State and Territory Health Departments and requested if you wish the department to continue processing your request.

On 15 August 2021, you responded to the department with the following:

*The information I am requesting is for all of Australia not for individual states. Could you please send me the information I have requested.*

The Australian, state and territory, and local governments share responsibility for running our health system. While the Australian Government supports and regulates health services, state, territory and local governments are responsible for managing and administering public hospitals and delivering preventive services such as immunisation programs.

The department publishes information about Australia's COVID-19 vaccine rollout provided by the states and territories. The information on the department's webpage is updated every day with the latest information received:

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines/australias-covid-19-vaccine-rollout>

## **FOI decision**

I am authorised under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to Freedom of Information requests. I am writing to notify you of my decision in response to your request.

Appropriate steps have been taken to find the documents referred to in your request including consultation with relevant departmental officers and searches of departmental file management systems.

I am satisfied, on the basis of the consultation undertaken and the searches conducted, that the department does not hold any documents referred to in your request.

As a consequence, relying on section 24A of the FOI Act, I cannot provide access to the documents you requested.

## **FOI review rights**

If you are dissatisfied with my decision, you may apply for a review.

### Internal review

Under section 54 of the FOI Act, you may apply for internal review of this decision. In accordance with section 54B of the FOI Act, an application for internal review must be made in writing within 30 days after the day you are notified of this decision (or such further period as the department allows). To assist in the internal review process, please provide reasons you consider the review of my decision is necessary.

The internal review will be carried out by another officer of this department within 30 days of receipt of your application.

An application for an internal review should be addressed to:

Email: [FOI@health.gov.au](mailto:FOI@health.gov.au)  
Mail: FOI Unit (MDP 516)  
Department of Health  
GPO Box 9848  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

### Information Commissioner review

Alternatively, under section 54L of the FOI Act, you may apply to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for review of my decision by the Information Commissioner (IC).

In accordance with subsection 54S(1) of the FOI Act, an IC review application in relation to a decision covered by subsection 54L(2) (access refusal decisions) must be made in writing within 60 days after the day you are notified of this decision (if you do not request an internal review).

More information about IC review is available on the OAIC website at:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews/>

The OAIC can be contacted by:

Email: [enquiries@oaic.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@oaic.gov.au)

Phone: 1300 363 992

## **Complaints**

If you are dissatisfied with action taken by the department, you may also make a complaint.

### Complaint to the department

Complaints to the department are covered by the department's privacy policy. A form for lodging a complaint directly to the department is available on the department's website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/complaints>

### Complaint to the IC

Information about making a complaint to the IC about action taken by the department is available on the OAIC website:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint/>

## **Relevant provisions of the FOI Act**

The FOI Act, including the provisions referred to in this letter, can be accessed from the Federal Register of Legislation website:

<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2021C00239>

## **Additional information**

While the department does not hold the documents you have requested, the States and Territories may hold documents for their respective jurisdictions. Requests for documents held by each jurisdiction can be lodged using the links below:

Australian Capital Territory:

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information>

New South Wales:

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/gipaa/Pages/default.aspx>

Northern Territory:

<https://health.nt.gov.au/freedom-of-information>

Queensland:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/contact-us/access-info/rti-application>

South Australia:

<https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/about+us/accessing+information/freedom+of+information>

Tasmania:

[https://www.health.tas.gov.au/about\\_the\\_department/your\\_rights/rti](https://www.health.tas.gov.au/about_the_department/your_rights/rti)

Victoria:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/making-freedom-information-request>

Western Australia:

[https://www.healthywa.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U\\_Z/WA-Health-freedom-of-information-contacts](https://www.healthywa.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/U_Z/WA-Health-freedom-of-information-contacts)

## Contacts

If you require clarification of any of the matters discussed in this letter you should contact the department's Freedom of Information Unit on (02) 6289 1666 or at [FOI@health.gov.au](mailto:FOI@health.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Perdi Mitchell  
Assistant Secretary  
Vaccine Operations Data and Reporting Branch

19 August 2021