



FOI Reference: LEX4275
File No: 21/25573
23 September 2021

Mr Edward Foucault

By email: foi+request-7705-dadb9304@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Foucault

Re. Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your request for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

“documents relating to the consideration of and provision of any Australian Government aid, grants, donations or financial, personnel, and asset support of development initiatives within the country of Burkina Faso from 2015 until the date of this request, including both approved and declined submissions and details of how the decision to approve / decline was reached.”

Preliminary searches for documents relevant to your request have been completed.

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions on the charge for processing your request. I have decided that a charge is payable based on the time required to execute searches, the number of relevant pages, processing time and time taken by the decision-maker (once appointed) to assess your request (noting that the first five hours are free of charge). Our preliminary assessment of the charges due is **\$496.18**.

Please note that at this stage in the FOI process, no decision has been made as to whether the information you seek will be released or exempt under the FOI Act. My decision at this stage relates only to the processing charge.

Under section 29 of the FOI Act, you now have 30 days within which to:

- agree to pay the charge;
- contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed;
- or
- withdraw your request.

Should you agree to pay the charge, the *Freedom of Information (Fees & Charges) Regulations 2019* (Cth) requires that you pay a deposit of **\$124.05** before processing commences.

If you choose to pay only the deposit amount at this stage, you will be required to pay the remainder of the charge prior to the release of any documents.

Your payment method options are outlined in the attachment.

Contend the charge

Should you contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed, you may apply for the department to waive or reduce the charge. The department will take into account whether:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause you financial hardship; and
- the giving of access to documents relevant to your request is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

A departmental decision-maker will take into account any considerations you put forward, and will make a decision on whether the charge should be imposed, and in what amount.

Processing period or withdrawal of request

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides that the 30-day processing period to assess your request is put on hold until we receive your payment of the deposit/payment in full of the charge, or we decide not to impose a charge. Should you withdraw your request at this stage, no charge will be imposed.

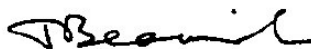
If we do not receive your response to this letter within 30 days of its receipt, I will consider that you no longer wish to continue with your request, and I will deem it withdrawn.

Narrow scope of request

Finally, you may elect to narrow the scope of your request, which may reduce the applicable charge.

Should you have any queries, or wish to discuss revising the terms of your request, please contact me by email at foi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Tom Beamish
Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section



Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Please cross out whichever is not applicable:

- Payment of Charges: Deposit / In Full
• Payment by: Credit Card / Direct Debit / Cheque or Money Order

For the sum of (please circle) \$124.05 / \$496.18 as detailed in the FOI Estimate of Charges letter dated 23 September 2021 (FOI Ref: LEX4275)

Credit Card

Name
Address

I authorise the National Cashier of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to debit my

VISA MASTER CARD

Expiry: /

Name appearing on card:

Signature:

Direct Debit

Account Name: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
BSB No.: 092-009
Account No.: 110329

Please include your surname and FOI Ref: LEX4275 in the reference field.

Cheque/Money Order

Make payable to: 'The National Cashier - DFAT'
Send to: Director, FOI Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R. G. Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221