



1 December 2021

Hewa

BY EMAIL: foi+request-7941-39698460@righttoknow.org.au

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 21/10/00375-R1

File Number: OBJ2021/30235

Dear Hewa

Decision on Internal Review – Freedom of Information Act 1982

I refer to your correspondence dated 3 November 2021 in which you requested that the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) review its decision on access to documents dated 3 November 2021 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

1 Scope of original request

The scope of your original request for access to documents under the FOI Act was as follows:

I would like to know the number of applicants who are to attend citizenship ceremonies in Brisbane City Council and Ipswich City Council. The requested time period is from 1 Jan 2021 to 30th September 2021. Please send the total number of applicants that attended citizenship ceremonies in Brisbane City Council and the Ipswich city council at the end of each month.

2 Original decision on access dated 3 November 2021

The Department identified one document as falling within the scope of your original request.

- Number of people who were conferred Australian citizenship at ceremonies conducted by Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils QLD, monthly from January 2021 to September 2021 - Freedom of Information Request FA 21/10/00375– 1 page

This document was in the possession of Department on 8 October 2021 when your FOI request was received.

The original decision maker decided to:

- release the document in full.

3 Request for internal review

On 3 November 2021, you requested the Department review its decision dated 3 November 2021. The terms of your review request were as follows:

In my request I asked for the number of applicants "who are to attend "citizenship ceremonies in Brisbane City Council and Ipswich City Council from 1 Jan 2021 to 30th September 2021.

In the reply I received the number of people who were conferred at the ceremonies.

Can you please let me know the number of applicants "who are to attend "citizenship ceremonies in Brisbane City Council and Ipswich City Council from 1 Jan 2021 to 30th September 2021.

On 12 November 2021, you confirmed the scope of your request to be the following:

I am looking for the total number of people who have got their citizenship application approved, but who have not been invited yet to the citizenship ceremonies as at end of each month.

I am looking for this information for Brisbane city council and the Ipswich City Council regions from 1 Jan 2021 to 30th October 2021.

4 Scope of review

Based on the terms of your internal review in paragraph 3 above, I consider you are seeking review of:

- the Department's decision that the documents indicated in paragraph 2 above fell within the scope of the request, and not the documents indicated in your request for internal review, namely:

... the total number of people who have got their citizenship application approved, but who have not been invited yet to the citizenship ceremonies as at end of each month.

I am looking for this information for Brisbane city council and the Ipswich City Council regions from 1 Jan 2021 to 30th October 2021.

I consider you have not sought review of the Department's decision on the [other] documents it identified as falling within the scope of the request in its original decision. Accordingly, the Department has not re-assessed these documents as part of this internal review decision, and will not be providing you with another copy of these documents.

5 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 documents or to amend or annotate departmental records.

6 Information considered

In reaching my decision, I have considered the following:

- the scope of your request

- the Department's original decision of 3 November 2021 and the evidence gathered for that decision
- advice from departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the information to which you sought access
- the FOI Act, and
- the Australian Information Commissioner's guidelines relating to the interpretation, operation and administration of the FOI Act (the FOI guidelines).

7 Authority to make decision

I am authorised under section 23 the FOI Act to make decisions to release and to refuse access to exempt documents and to conduct internal reviews.

8 Internal review decision

I have decided to vary the original decision of the Department dated 3 November 2021. I have set aside the decision and replaced it with the following decision:

- that the document identified as falling within the scope of the request in the original decision is outside the scope of the request
- that the an alternative document is within the scope of the request, and in relation to that document:
 - to release the document in full.

9 Reasons for internal review decision: documents within scope

Whether documents identified as falling within scope are within scope

I have reviewed the document identified by the Department as falling within the scope of the request in the original decision. I have also considered your submissions in requesting internal review.

I am satisfied that the document identified as falling within the scope of the request is outside the scope of the request, as it does not contain information relating to the number of people whose citizenship applications have been approved and are awaiting invitations to citizenship ceremonies.

Additional searches for documents

I have determined that further reasonable searches for documents should be undertaken by the Department, including searches of departmental computer systems, to identify alternative documents within the scope of the request.

The Department has therefore conducted further reasonable searches to determine whether it holds or is able to produce further documents relevant to your request.

Outcomes of searches – documents produced

As a result of these searches, the Department has determined that it holds further information relevant to the terms of your request on its computer systems, and is able to produce the following documents from its systems pursuant to section 17 of the FOI Act:

- Number of people who were conferred Australian citizenship at ceremonies conducted by Brisbane and Ipswich City Councils QLD, monthly from January 2021 to September 2021 - Freedom of Information Request FA 21/10/00375 - 1 page

The information **was** held by the Department on 8 October 2021, when the Department received your request for access.

I have decided to release the document in full.

10 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.

11 Your review rights

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 <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/information-commissioner-review/>.

12 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.

13 Contact

Should you wish to discuss my decision, please do not hesitate to contact via email at foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Jack
Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Home Affairs