



15 November 2021

FOI ref: 3035

Mr Albert Frankaland
Right To Know website
By email: foi+request-7969-af23597c@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Frankaland

Freedom of Information Request – Decision

I refer to your request to the Royal Australian Mint (Mint) of 16 October 2021 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* to the following:

‘...all documentation held since 2015 that justifies and explains the reasons for the continued minting of the Australian 5 cent coin, although it has for many years cost more to mint each coin than its face-value.’

Your request was transferred to the Treasury under section 16 of the FOI Act on 10 November 2021 as the agency with closest connection to the subject matter of your request.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act.

Decision

I have decided to refuse your request as it seeks access to exempt agency information under section 7(2) and Schedule 2 Part II Division 1 of the FOI Act. The reasons for my decision follow.

Section 7(2) of the FOI Act provides that the persons, bodies and Departments specified in Part II of Schedule 2 are exempt from the operation of the FOI Act concerning the documents referred to in that Schedule to those entities. This means that there is no right of access to the documents of the type listed in the Schedule because the FOI Act has no application to them.

Schedule 2 Part II Division 1 of the FOI Act provides that the Treasury is an exempt agency with respect to documents concerning the commercial activities of the Mint. I am satisfied that the documents covered by your request concern the Mint’s commercial activities because the Mint sells its five cent coins to Australia’s retail banks. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 7(2) and Schedule 2 Part II Division 1 of the FOI Act.

Further information

That said, I can provide you with some information which may be of interest and assistance to you.

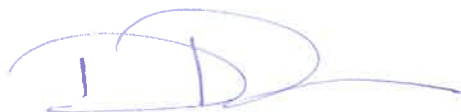
Production of the five cent piece, as for all denominations of circulating coin, reflects demand by the Australian public via the commercial banks. The cost to produce circulating coin varies throughout the year and over time due to fluctuations in the price of the metals used and other inputs. The cost of production of the five cent piece (including labour cost) has remained relatively stable in recent times and currently stands at \$0.059 per piece, but even within the last two years has at times cost less than its face value to produce.

There are currently no plans to cease production of the five cent piece or to remove this denomination from circulation. The Royal Australian Mint expects that demand for the five cent piece will generally decline consistent with the longer term trend for coins, noting that there is a need for some parts of our community in particular to continue to have access to cash in denominations that provide the appropriate utility.

Rights of Review

A statement setting out your rights of review in this matter is attached.

Yours sincerely



David Pearl
Assistant Secretary
Competition and Consumer Branch
Market Conduct Division

INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW

1. APPLICATION FOR INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision refusing to grant access to documents in accordance with your request.

An application for a review of the decision must be made in writing within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you could set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed. An application for a review of the decision should be emailed to FOI@Treasury.gov.au.

OR

2. APPLICATION TO AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER (INFORMATION COMMISSIONER) FOR REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54L of the FOI Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

An application for review must be in writing and must:

- give details of how notices must be sent to you; and
- include a copy of the notice of decision.

You should send your application for review to:

The Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

AND/OR

3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Section 70 of the FOI Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the FOI Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be directed to the following address:

The Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.