



1 December 2021

Our reference: LEX 65457

Mr Fraser Tweedale (Right to Know)

Only by email: [foi+request-8093-e428f989@righttoknow.org.au](mailto:foi+request-8093-e428f989@righttoknow.org.au)

Dear Mr Tweedale

**Freedom of Information Request - Charges**

I refer to your request to Services Australia (the agency) dated 16 November 2021, for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). You requested access to:

All internal and external communication, including email correspondence, and any other documents brought into existence or modified pursuant to FOI request reference LEX 63435 or internal review reference LEX 64833.

...

I exclude from the scope of this request any correspondence with myself, whether direct or mediated by the "Right to Know" Internet service.

**Preliminary Assessment of the Charge**

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I have decided you are liable to pay a charge for the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of that charge is \$42.75 calculated as follows:

Search and retrieval time: 2 hours, at \$15.00 per hour:	\$30.00
Decision-making time (*after deduction of 5 hours): 0.64 hours, at \$20.00 per hour	\$12.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42.75</b>

\*The FOI Act provides the first five hours of decision-making time are free of charge and this is reflected in the calculation.

I am advised the agency has in its possession 19 documents totalling 57 pages relevant to your request. Please note that payment of the charge does not guarantee you access to the documents in full or in part.

**Required Action**

If you would like the agency to continue processing your request, you must notify the agency in writing within 30 days of receiving this notice that you:

- a) agree to pay the charge; or
- b) wish to contend the charge:
  - i. has been wrongly assessed
  - ii. should be reduced or not imposed, or
  - iii. both.

Alternatively, you may wish to withdraw your request for access.

If you do not provide a written response in accordance with one of options a) or b) above within 30 days of receiving this notice, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn under section 29(2) of the FOI Act.

Further information on options a) and b) are set out below.

### **Option a) - pay the charge**

As the charge exceeds \$25.00, but does not exceed \$100.00, you are required to pay a deposit of \$20.00 within 30 days of receiving this notice. You may, of course, elect to pay the charge in full at this point.

You may select from one of the following payment methods:

1. Online payment via Government EasyPay - follow [this link](#) and enter the relevant details. You will need your FOI LEX reference number, **LEX 65457**
2. Cheque made out to the Collector of Public Monies and posted to Freedom of Information, Services Australia, PO BOX 7820, Canberra BC, ACT 2610, or
3. Money order made out to the Collector of Public Monies and posted to Freedom of Information, Services Australia, PO BOX 7820, Canberra BC, ACT 2610.

If you elect to pay the charge, please email [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au) to advise us of your payment. Please quote reference number **LEX 65457** in this correspondence.

### **Option b) - seek reduction or non-imposition of the charge**

You may contend the charge has been wrongly assessed, or should be reduced or not imposed. Section 29(5) of the FOI Act provides that, in deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, the decision-maker must take into account any relevant reasons, including whether payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause you or your organisation financial hardship, and whether the giving of access to the documents is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed, please set out your reasons and the evidence in support of your reasons as clearly as possible. If you believe payment of the charge would cause you or your organisation financial hardship, please provide sufficient details of your financial circumstances to enable the decision-maker to make a well-informed decision in this regard.

### **Time limits for processing your request**

Section 31 of the FOI Act provides where a notice is sent to an applicant regarding the payment of a charge in respect of a request, the time limit for processing the request is suspended from the date the notice is received until either:

- a) the day following payment of the charge (in full or the required deposit), or
- b) if applicable, the day following the notification to the applicant of a decision not to impose the charge.

## **Address for correspondence**

Please send all correspondence regarding your FOI request to me at the following address:

Freedom of Information team  
Services Australia  
PO Box 7820  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

Or by email to [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au).

## **Publication of information in the FOI disclosure log**

Information released under the FOI Act may be published in a disclosure log on the agency's website. Section 11C of the FOI Act requires this publication, subject to certain exceptions, including where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

## **Further assistance**

If you have any questions please email [FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au](mailto:FOI.LEGAL.TEAM@servicesaustralia.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Colette  
Authorised FOI Decision Maker  
Freedom of Information Team  
Information Access Branch | Legal Services Division  
Services Australia