



30 March 2022

Chris H

By email to: foi+request-8539-f9723b16@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Chris

Your Freedom of Information Request – Notification of intention to refuse request

Thank you for your email of 2 March 2022, in which you sought access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act).

I am writing to inform you that preliminary searches by the department have identified a large volume of material that would require consideration to determine whether it is within the scope of your request, the processing of which we assess (for the reasons set out below) would constitute a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the department's resources. However, you are welcome to revise the scope of your request in line with section 24AB(2)(e) of the Act, so that it might be processed.

Notice of intended practical refusal

On 2 March 2022, you submitted an FOI application to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, requesting access to the following:

“documents of the descriptions of all Australian Passports designs throughout history.”

In accordance with section 24AB(2) of the Act, I am providing you notice of my intention to refuse your request. The reason for the proposed practical refusal is that the work involved in processing the request as it currently stands would substantially and unreasonably divert the department's resources from its other operations.

In making this assessment, I have considered how the department could proceed to process your request, and the time and resources that would be involved in doing so. I have been assisted in this task by initial estimates provided by Australian Passport Office staff, who have advised that several hundred pages of material have been identified as relevant to the scope of your request.

For these reasons, I am of the opinion that processing your request in its current form would be a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the department's resources under section 24AA(1) of the Act.

Consultation to revise the scope of the request

Pursuant to section 24AB(2)(e) of the Act, you have 14 days from the day you are given this notice to:

- a) withdraw your request;

- b) revise the scope of your request; or
- c) inform the department that you do not wish to revise your request.

I invite you to contact me (via foi@dfat.gov.au) should you wish to revise the request in order that it may be processed.

To support your consideration of a revised scope, note it may be useful to:

- reduce the time period for your request;
- limit the scope of your request to be for a specific type of document.

Please note that under section 24AB(7) of the Act, if you do not take an opportunity to consult with the department within 14 days, your request will be considered to have been withdrawn.

Please also be aware that during this period of consultation, the statutory timeframe under section 15(5) of the Act for the processing of your request is on hold (see section 24AB(8) of the Act for details). I have attached a copy of sections 24, 24AA and 24AB of the Act for your information.

Yours sincerely



Tom van Kints
A/g Director
Freedom of Information and Privacy Law Section