



Australian Government

Department of Finance

Reference: FOI 22/27
Contact: FOI Team
e-mail: foi@finance.gov.au

Ginette Van Praag

By email only: foi+request-8638-e18d7994@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Ginette

Freedom of Information Request – FOI 22/27

On 23 March 2022, the Department of Finance (Finance) received your email requesting access to the following under the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act):

1. Please provide copies of the approved floor plans, layout and infrastructure (plumbing, wiring, ventilation and piping) building plans for the residential cabins currently in situ and undergoing construction for all Centres for National Resilience in Australia - All States and Territories.
2. Please provide all supporting evidence in your possession that these Centres for National Resilience are an essential part of National Infrastructure for managing quarantine of persons.
3. Please provide all supporting evidence in your possession relating to the use of these Centres for National Resilience in the absence of a declared state of emergency.
4. Please provide all supporting evidence in your possession relating to the function of pipework connecting to the ventilation systems in cabins including what would be connected to such pipework once these cabins are installed in situ.
5. Please provide all supporting evidence in your possession relating to evacuation procedures of cabin residents in the event of an emergency.

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with notice that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert Finance's resources from its other operations. This is called a 'practical refusal reason' (s 24AA). The purpose of the practical refusal is to ensure that the capacity of agencies to discharge their normal functions are not undermined by processing requests that are unreasonably burdensome.

On this basis, I intend to refuse access to the documents you requested. However, before I make a final decision to do this, you have an opportunity to revise your request. This is called a 'request consultation process' as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act. You have **14 days** to respond to this notice in one of the ways set out below. Your response is due on or before **Thursday, 21 April 2022**.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised by the Secretary of Finance under section 23(1) of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Why I intend to refuse your request

Under section 24AA(2) of the FOI Act, I must have regard to the resources that would have to be used by Finance for:

- identifying, locating or collating the documents within the filing system of the agency or the office of the Minister
- deciding whether to grant, refuse or defer access to a document to which the request relates, or to grant access to an edited copy of such a document (including resources that would have to be used for examining the document or consulting with any person or body in relation to the request)
- making a copy or an edited copy, of the document
- notifying any interim or final decision on the request.

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because your request requires Finance to:

- review approximately 865 files consisting of a minimum of one page per file, relevant to your request, estimated to take a minimum of 107 hours to review and make an access decision
- a significant number of pages will likely require redactions and
- your request relates to documents that contain extensive third party information, which requires Finance to undertake third party consultation, and to consider any objections to release submitted by those third parties.

Request consultation process: clarifying the terms of your request

You now have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed.

Revising your request can mean narrowing the scope of the request to make it more manageable or explaining in more detail the documents you wish to access. For example, by providing more targeted or specific information about exactly what documents you are interested in, so that Finance will be able to pinpoint the documents quickly and avoid using excessive resources to process documents you are not interested in.

Further action required

Before the end of the consultation period, you must do one of the following, in writing:

- withdraw your request
- revise your request
- tell us that you seek to proceed with your original request

The consultation period runs for 14 days and starts on the day after you receive this notice.

During this period, you are welcome to seek assistance from the Contact Officer I have listed below to revise your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, Finance will recommence processing your request.

Please note, the time taken to consult with you regarding your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the 30 day statutory processing period in which Finance is required to finalise your FOI request.

If you do not respond electing to do one of the three options listed above during the consultation period or you do not consult the contact person during this period, the FOI Act deems your request to have been withdrawn.

Contact Officer

If you would like to revise your request or have any questions, the Contact Officer for this request is:

Jonathan Messieh
FOI Officer
foi@finance.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Approved for electronic transmission

Hew Atkin
Assistant Secretary
Quarantine Infrastructure Delivery
Department of Finance
7 April 2022