



Australian Government

Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Our reference: RQ22/01840

Agency reference: CRM2022/1176(LEX757)

Me Me

By email: foi+request-8848-fe33c763@righttoknow.org.au

Notification to: foi@afp.gov.au

Extension of time under s 15AB

Dear Me

On 17 May 2022, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) applied for further time to make a decision on your FOI request of 2 May 2022 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (the FOI Act).

This application was made on the basis that the processing period is insufficient to deal adequately with your FOI request, because it is voluminous.

The AFP attempted to obtain an agreement under s 15AA of the FOI Act for an extension of time from you. The AFP advised that you refused the request for an extension.

Decision

As a delegate of the Information Commissioner, I am authorised to make decisions on applications for extensions of time under s 15AB of the FOI Act.

I have decided to grant the AFP an extension of time under s 15AB(2) of the FOI Act **to 1 July 2022**. I am satisfied that the AFP's application for an extension of time is justified, because the request is voluminous. My reasons and considerations follow:

- On 2 May 2022, the AFP received your FOI request.
- On 9 May 2022, line areas advised due to the complexity and size of searches identified, further time was required to conduct searches.
- The AFP considers your request to be voluminous as the scope of your request relates to a series of documents across three areas of interest within the AFP's National Women's Advisory Network, with early indications of a large volume of documents.

- The AFP requires additional time to search all holdings to satisfy searches, assess documentation and finalise its decision.

If AFP does not make a decision by 1 July 2022 you may wish to seek Information Commissioner review of the AFP's deemed refusal of request [here](#). Further information on [applying for IC review](#) is available on the OAIC [website](#).

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact me on (02) 9284 9847 or via email jasmin.clarke@oaic.gov.au. Please quote OAIC reference number at the top of this page in all correspondence.

Yours sincerely



Jasmin Clarke

Review and Investigation Advisor
FOI Regulatory Group

25 May 2022

Review rights

If you disagree with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's (OAIC) decision you can apply to the Federal Court of Australia or the Federal Circuit Court for a review of a decision of the Information Commissioner if you think that a decision by the Information Commissioner to grant an extension of time is not legally correct. You can make this application under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*.

The Court will not review the merits of your case but it may refer the matter back to the Information Commissioner for further consideration if it finds the decision was wrong in law or the Information Commissioner's powers were not exercised properly.

An application for review must be made to the Court within 28 days of the OAIC sending the decision to you. You may wish to seek legal advice as the process can involve fees and costs. Please contact the Federal Court registry in your state or territory for more information, or visit the Federal Court website at <http://www.fedcourt.gov.au/>.

Further information

Further information about how applications to extend the timeframe to process an FOI request are handled by the OAIC can be found published on our website:

For FOI applicants: [How to make an FOI request: Extensions of time](#)

For agencies and ministers: [Guidance and advice: Extension of time for processing requests](#)

The OAIC has the power to investigate complaints about an agency's actions under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act). This is a separate process from asking for an Information Commissioner review following a decision made under the FOI Act. Complaints usually focus on how an agency has handled your FOI request or complied with other obligations under the FOI Act, rather than the decision itself.

In some cases, the Information Commissioner's investigation of a complaint may lead to the agency addressing the issues that you have complained about. In other cases, the Information Commissioner may make suggestions or recommendations that the agency should implement. The Information Commissioner can only make non-binding recommendations as a result of a complaint. You and the agency will be notified of the outcome of the investigation.

FOI complaints to the OAIC must be made in writing. Our preference is for you to use the **[online FOI complaint form](#)** if at all possible.

Further information about how to make a complaint can be found published on our website: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/reviews-and-complaints/make-an-foi-complaint/>.