



Australian Government
Department of Finance

Reference: FOI 22/54
Contact: FOI Team
e-mail: foi@finance.gov.au

C Drake

By email only: foi+request-9176-f4531aef@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Drake,

Freedom of Information Request – FOI 22/54

On 25 July 2022, the Department of Finance (Finance) received your email requesting access under the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the following documents:

You operate the site <https://www.domainname.gov.au/about> which is the gov.au domain name registration portal.

This portal in turn supplies registration data to the .au registry operator (Afilias Australia Pty Ltd) who maintains a “master list” of gov.au public domain names.

Please supply the current “master list”, preferably in machine-readable format.

Note that F.o.I. rules require that you contact and/or negotiate with me if you encounter any hurdles with the above; please make sure you do this if for any reason you find it difficult to simply obtain (e.g. ask Afilias) and supply the above list. Note also that historical “A-Z” sites directories once existed in government, however, they were never complete, and all appear to be taken down at present - I’m not interested in old or incomplete lists, I’m after the current “master list” as maintained by the registry.

On 28 July 2022, Finance emailed you and provided the latest Australian Government Organisations Register (AGOR) dataset which includes a field for the website or webpage attributed to each listed entity.

On 28 July 2022, you advised that you would like to proceed with your original request:

Thanks for the alternative suggestion (and FYI - all of the web links online, including the one you provided, are not functional - they all ultimately lead to “File not Found” errors).

The previous A-Z list included 992 gov.au domains as of 2017. The attachment you provided includes 295, and so appears to be far fewer than would exist as of now.

Since I’m seeking the actual comprehensive list, I would like to proceed with my original request.

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’. The

availability of the practical refusal reason in the FOI Act is to ensure that the capacity of Finance to discharge their normal functions are not undermined by processing requests that are unreasonably burdensome.

On this basis of the above practical refusal reason, 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'.

Authorised decision-maker

I am authorised by the Secretary of Finance to make decisions in relation to FOI requests.

Why I intend to refuse your request

Under subsection 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 Finance's filing system
- 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 decided that a practical refusal reason exists because your request relates to documents that contain extensive information from various government Departments, which requires Finance to undertake consultation with each of those Departments, and to consider any objections to release submitted by those Departments. Finance notes that your request would require in excess of 40 hours to process.

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.

You are required to take further action

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

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

The consultation period runs for **14 days** starting on the day after you receive this notice. This means you must respond to this notice in one of the ways set out above on or before **Monday 22 August 2022**.

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 calendar day statutory processing period in which Finance is required to finalise your 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. If your request is deemed withdrawn, you are not prevented from making a new request in the future.

Contact officer

If you would like to revise your request or have any questions, the contact officer for your request is:

Stacey
FOI Officer
Foi@finance.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MV', followed by a horizontal line.

Marc Vickers
Deputy CISO
Assistant Secretary
Governance and Procurement Branch
Information and Communications Technology Division
Department of Finance
8 August 2022