



29 August, 2022

FOI ref: 3149

BE

By email: BE foi+request-9223-cb884a54@righttoknow.org.au

Dear BE

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – CHARGES

I am writing to about your request on 4 August 2022, seeking access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* to the following:

I seek access under the FOI Act 1982 to Question Time briefs (however described). This request is for Question Time briefs for the 47th Parliament (ie Question Time briefs prepared for 27 – 28 July and 1-4 August). I also request a copy of the Department's current index of Question Time briefs. Duplicate copies of the same document are not required, although different or updated versions of a document are. If a document contains tracked changes or comments, it is requested that the document be provided in a form where all tracked changes and comments are visible. Names and contact details for departmental staff below the SES level are not required and can be treated as irrelevant under s22 of the Act for the purposes of this request.

On 22 August 2022, after a request consultation under section 24AB of the FOI Act, you revised the scope of your request as follows:

I confirm that i will reduce the scope as follows:

- 1. Copy of the QTB index as at the date of the original request*
- 2. The first 30 QTBs listed in the index*

I do not require drafts.

In accordance with section 29 of the FOI Act, I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. This is because, although you have excluded draft documents and limited the number of briefs to 30 to reduce the overall size of the request, you have not excluded the background information in the briefs from the scope of your request.

As indicated on page 2 of my request consultation letter to you of 16 August 2022, the inclusion of the background information in the briefs, which is not necessarily intended for public release, will necessitate me having to consult six divisions of the Treasury concerning sensitivities in that material. This will substantially increase the overall departmental processing time for your request. For this reason, I have decided a charge is appropriate in this instance. Had the background material been excluded from the scope of your request, I would likely have waived the charge.

My preliminary assessment of the charge is **\$300.00**, based on the following calculations:

Item	Hours	Price
Search and retrieval already undertaken (at \$15 per hour)	5.5 hours	\$82.00
Decision-making (at \$20 per hour), including:	First 5 hours (free)	\$0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination of relevant pages and deciding whether to release or exempt • The making of any necessary redactions (this does not include the redaction of staff details) • Preparation of a decision letter. 	10.90 additional hours	\$218.00
TOTAL		\$300.00
Deposit (25% of total cost)		\$75.00

These hourly charges have been calculated in accordance with the *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the **FOI Regulations**) to reflect the work involved in processing a request and making a decision. However, any access you get to the documents will depend on the final decision, and not the payment of charges.

What you need to do

You have 30 days to pay the charges. You can pay the charge in full, or pay a deposit of 25% now and the remainder before you receive any documents. The attachment to this letter sets out the payment options.

If you dispute the charge

Please contact the Treasury's FOI team by emailing foi@treasury.gov.au and explain why the charge has been wrongly assessed, why it should be reduced, or why there should be no charge for your request.

Your email must include your reasons for disputing the charge. If you are requesting a reduction in the charge, or that there be no charge, this includes information to help the Treasury understand whether:

- the charge would cause financial hardship to you, or the person on whose behalf you made the request, or
- giving access to the documents is in the general public interest, or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

The Treasury will then consider your email and make a decision about whether or not to reduce or remove the charge. You may still contest the charge after paying the charge in full, or in part by deposit.

What happens next?

The statutory timeframe for processing your request is suspended until you pay the charge or deposit, or until you receive a decision from the Treasury about removing the charge.

If you do not contact the Treasury or pay the charge or deposit **within 30 days of receiving this letter**, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Matheson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Matheson
(A/g) Assistant Secretary, Executive Coordination and Governance
Corporate Division

Department of Treasury Payment Options

Customer Name: _____

Customer Address: _____

FOI Number: _____

Option 1: Bank Cheque or Australian Money Order – made out to “Collector of Public Monies”

Attached

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Option 2: Please debit my credit card as follows:

AMEX

VISA

Mastercard

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Card Number

Expiry Date

CCV Number

Total Amount

Name on Card

Signature of card holder

Send your completed form:

by post to: FOI Officer, The Treasury, Langton Crescent, Parkes ACT 2600

or by Email to: FOI@treasury.gov.au

Office Use Only			
<i>File Number:</i>		<i>Trim Number:</i>	
<i>Cost Centre:</i>		<i>GL Code:</i>	
<i>Customer Number:</i>		<i>DAN Number:</i>	