



Australian
National
University

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15 June 2023

Watson Norwood
Via email: foi+request-10244-874213f4@righttoknow.org.au

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST NO 202300043

Intention to Refuse Request under section 24AB(2) of the FOI Act

Dear Watson Norwood,

I refer to your request dated 10 May 2023 for documents under the FOI Act ('Request').

Your request was as follows:

'I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act for a complete copy of the departments' Freedom of Information (FOI) logs for the period 2013-2023, including any secondary departments controlled by the agency.'

I request that this is provided as a document and not a simple redirect to the agency website as I am of the view that your online disclosure logs do not actively reflect your FOI requests that you have received in this period.

I would appreciate it if you could provide me with this information in an electronic format, such as a PDF or spreadsheet, if possible.

If there are any fees associated with fulfilling this request, please let me know in advance so that I can consider my options.'

Date range for the documents being requested: 10 Years (1 January 2013 – Present)

Practical Refusal – Request Consultation

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

I am writing to tell you that I believe that the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the University from its other operations due to its size, complexity and broad scope. This is called a 'practical refusal reason' (section 24AA).

Why I intend to refuse your request

Initial assessment of your request indicates that the information you have requested has been made available to the public in line with the requirements set out under s11C of the FOI Act.

Given that the documentation is available publicly, and factoring in the considerable time and effort that has already gone towards the maintenance of the University's disclosure log, the additional time it would take to deal with your request – particularly due to its broad scope and substantial timeframe - would amount to an unreasonable diversion of resources.

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.

Consultation Period

You now have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. In accordance with Sections 24(1)(a) and 24AB(2) of the Act, you may contact me via email (foi@anu.edu.au) to consult about your Request and my intention to refuse it within fourteen calendar days after this notice is given.

I will take all reasonable steps to assist you in revising your request to the extent where the practical refusal reason no longer exists. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we will recommence processing it.

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 specific information about exactly what documents you are interested in, the ANU will be able to pinpoint the documents more quickly and avoid using excessive resources to process documents you are not interested in.

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

- withdraw your request
- make a revised request
- tell us that you do not wish to revise your request.

If you do not do one of the three things listed above during the consultation period or you do not consult the contact person during this period, your request will be taken to have been withdrawn.

Disclosure Log Requirements

For further information regarding the requirements of Disclosure Logs, please see the below link:

<https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information-guidance-for-government-agencies/proactive-publication-and-administrative-access/information-publication-scheme>

I draw your attention to the information about what is and is not required to be published on a disclosure log.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this decision further, please contact me at foi@anu.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Dan', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn Dan

Associate Director

Records and Archives

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TEQSA Provider ID: PRV12002 (Australian University)
CRICOS Provider Code: 00120C