



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

ELECTRONIC RECORDS

NB: These documents have been obtained from an electronic record. An original hard-copy version of this record does not exist.

From: [Jenny](#)
To: [INFORMATION.ACCESS](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information request - Official diary/calendar for Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research
Date: Monday, 19 February 2024 8:36:57 PM

Dear Department of Veterans' Affairs,

I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

I also request copy of any email or Teams entry of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research made between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it.

The names of any individual who is not a SES employee of the Department is irrelevant as are signatures, emails, phone numbers and desk locations.

Where a document produced contains information which is not official information but personal private activity then that part is irrelevant and may be removed.

As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know.

Yours faithfully,

Jenny

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

@..

Is @.. the wrong address for Freedom of Information requests to Department of Veterans' Affairs? If so, please contact us using this form:

https://www.righttoknow.org.au/change_request/new?body=dva

This request has been made by an individual using Right to Know. This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. More information on how Right to Know works can be found at:

<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers>

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.

From: [INFORMATION.ACCESS](#)
To: "Jenny"
Subject: LEX 65295 - Information Access Request - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024 3:39:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)

Dear Jenny,

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (the department) has received your request for access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). I note you have requested access to the following:

'...I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

I also request copy of any email or Teams entry of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research made between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it.

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As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know...'

Your request was received by the department on 19 February 2024 and the ordinary 30 day statutory period for processing your request commenced from the day after that date.

If we are in a position to make a decision on your request earlier than this date, we will endeavour to do so.

The statutory period may also be extended if we need to consult third parties or for other reasons permitted under the FOI Act. We will advise you if this happens.

Charges

If the Department considers that a charge will apply to your request, you will be notified within 14 days of an estimate of the charges that will apply to your request for non-personal information before we process any requested documents or impose a final charge.

Your address

The FOI Act requires that you provide us with an address that we can send notices to. You have

advised your contact address is xx@xxxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx . Unless you tell us otherwise, we will send all notices and correspondence to this address.

Disclosure log

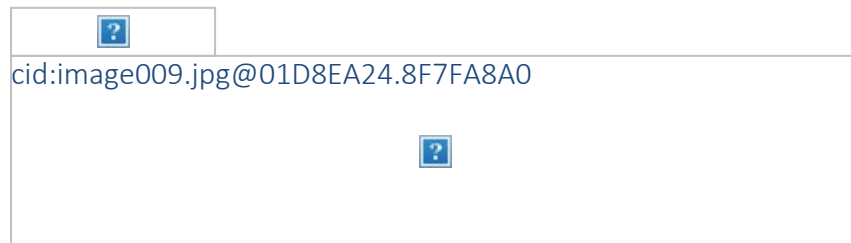
Information released under the FOI Act may be published on a disclosure log on our website, subject to certain exceptions. These exceptions include where publication of personal, business, professional or commercial information would be unreasonable.

Further assistance

If you have any questions about your request, please email xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx

Yours sincerely

Kevin | Information Access Officer
Position 62373493
Information Access Unit
Ministerial, International & Stakeholder Relations Branch
Ministerial, Communication & Engagement Division
Department of Veterans' Affairs
1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)
xxxxxxxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx
www.dva.gov.au



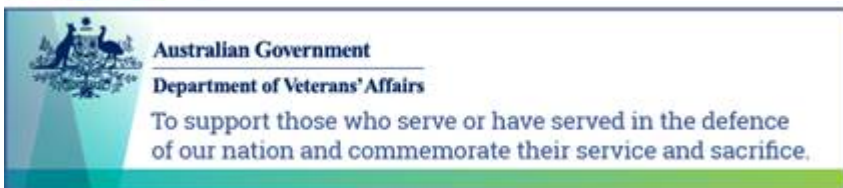
From: Clode, Nadine
Sent: Wednesday, 10 April 2024 12:27 PM
To: s 47F Joshua
Cc: s 47E s 47F Cassandra; s 47E
Subject: Attention LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Attachments: LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY_9 April 2024.docx; TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT - Cases - Freedom of Information (FOI) Primary Requested - 2024 - LEX 65295 - JENNY.tr5

Joshua – as discussed.

Please find attached cleared search minute.

Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Research Branch
Research, Evaluation and Data Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs
Ph: s 47F **Ext:** s 47F **Mobile:** s 47F
nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au
EA: TBC. Point of contact is s 47F



From: Hancock, Veronica <Veronica.Hancock@dva.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 April 2024 10:39 AM
To: s 47E <s 47E dva.gov.au>
Cc: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>
Subject: FW: FOR FAS CLEARANCE: Attention LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks, the search minute is cleared.

Please note I am unable to access the TRIM container so have not been able to view any of the documents.

Thanks, Veronica

Veronica Hancock | First Assistant Secretary
Research, Evaluation and Data Division
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Tel (s 47F Ext s 47F Mobile s 47F
veronica.hancock@dva.gov.au
www.dva.gov.au



From: Clode, Nadine
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 11:57 AM
To: s 47F Joshua
Cc: s 47F Cassandra; s 47F Taylor
Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Categories: Team London Updates, Cassy

Thanks so much

Taylor – this is the work I need your assistance please (and thank you). I will organise some time with you on Thursday.

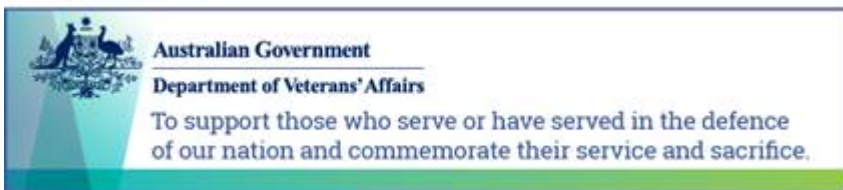
Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Research Branch
Research, Evaluation and Data Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: s 47F **Ext:** s 47F **Mobile:** s 47F

nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au

EA: TBC. Point of contact is s 47F s 47F



From: s 47F Joshua s 47F
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 11:20 AM
To: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>
Cc: s 47F Cassandra s 47F
Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Nadine

Access for Taylor and yourself has now been organised, maybe give it a day for it to tick over.

Please let me know if there's any issues.

Kind regards

Joshua | Assistant Director

Position Number: 62336362

Information Access Unit

Ministerial, International & Stakeholder Relations Branch

Ministerial, Communication & Engagement Division

Department of Veterans' Affairs

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Joshua | Assistant Director

Position Number: 62336362

Information Access Unit

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Department of Veterans' Affairs

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Information.Access@dva.gov.au

www.dva.gov.au

From: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>

Sent: Thursday, 29 February 2024 1:12 PM

To: s 47E <s 47E@dva.gov.au>

Cc: s 47E <s 47E@dva.gov.au>;

s 47E <s 47E@dva.gov.au>

Subject: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear Team and further to the attached Minute.

I have begun work on this request.

It asks in separate paragraphs for two things:

1. Calendar entries for two days.

This is easily provided. **2** documents. Minimal redaction will need to occur for non SES officers given titles of meetings that occur on those days.

2. "copy of any email or Teams entry of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research made between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it".

In relation to this second matter, I reviewed all emails that I, as Assistant Secretary, Community Policy and Research, have sent between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it". There is a total of **72**.

I have reviewed all teams messages that I as Assistant Secretary, Community Policy and Research, have sent that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it" on the new Teams messages system. I do not have access to the previous teams system so that has not been searched. There is a total of **4**.

In relation to the **72** emails I am yet to isolate them into a separate folder or TRIM container. This means I have not yet counted the pages, and or documents attached to them. However, I assume this runs into hundreds of pages. Each of these documents is going to require careful consideration and much redaction. This a voluminous amount of work. I have set out examples of this redaction work below. In short, it would require me to manually go through every single document. This is many days of work.

I assume that the requestor, Jenny, is actually most interested in correspondence related to meetings of the DDVA HREC that involved the DVA MATES PROGRAM. This is because the DDVA HREC met on both of the dates that my copies of my calendar was requested and considered the DVA MATES PROGRAM.

Given the amount of work that is involved by me, **is it possible to raise this with Jenny and seek clarification if her request is about the DDVA HREC / DVA MATES PROGRAM and the scope can be limited to “DDVA HREC and DVA MATES PROGRAM” and “HREC and DVA MATES PROGRAM”.**

Please advise.

Reasons for redaction include:

- Names of all staff that are not SES officers – this would apply to all 78 initial documents referred to above + any documents attached to those emails.
- Commercial in confidence. Some of these emails are about payments to contracted consultants engaged by the Department to do research work (but do not include University of South Australia and are not related to DVA MATES Program).
- Sensitive information that involves the Minister’s officer that is not related to DVA MATES Program.
- Sensitive information about other research projects not related to DVA MATES Program.
- Sensitive information concerning DDVA HREC: redactions are made to all sections and aspects that relate to any unapproved projects, and unresolved project matters, in line with the sensitivities identified below. This is the consistent with our requests my Branch has made in relation to similar FOI requests. The reasons for this are as follows:
 - DDVA HREC members and proceedings are subject to strict confidentiality, as laid out in the letters of appointment and DDVA HREC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
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 - Approving the release of applicants’ draft research may pose reputational risk to DVA, breaching trust, which may discourage researchers from undertaking future research contracts involving veterans and their families

Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Community Policy & Research Branch
Policy & Research Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: s 47F Ext s 47F Mobile: s 47F

nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au

EA: TBC. Point of contact for week of 26 Feb is **s 47F**



From: s 47E

Sent: Thursday, 22 February 2024 11:28 AM

To: s 47E

Cc: Clode, Nadine ; s 47E

Subject: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning team,

The department has received a new information access request from JENNY under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The request was received on 19 February 2024 and was made in the following terms:

'...I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

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As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know...

Please provide an AS cleared Search Minute to PRD Coord by **COB, Friday 1 March**.

Carly Predovan

Executive Assistant to Adam Weiderman

A/g First Assistant Secretary, Policy & Research Division

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Tel (s 47F) Ext s 47F

s 47F

www.dva.gov.au



From: s 47F Padmaja s 47F

On Behalf Of s 47E

Sent: Thursday, 22 February 2024 11:10 AM

To: s 47E <s 47E dva.gov.au>

Subject: LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear colleagues,

The department has received a new information access request from JENNY under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The request was received on 19 February 2024 and was made in the following terms:

'...I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

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As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know...

Your area has been identified as the area that is most likely to hold additional documents relevant to the request. Please confirm by **27/02/2024** the following information:

- The nominated contact officer for this request (the person who will be the contact person for our team to liaise with).
- Whether or not this request is sensitive (this includes, but is not limited to, requests likely to attract SES, ministerial or media interest).
- Whether there are any other line areas that may hold documents relevant to the request.

I have attached a search minute for the nominated contact officer to complete. A signed copy of the search minute and the documents relevant to the scope of the request must be sent to s 47E dva.gov.au no later than **COB 05/03/2024**

The FOI Act has strict statutory timeframes and a decision on access must generally be made 30 days after the day the FOI request is received. This is why the above timeframes have been specified. More information on the FOI process can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact Cassandra s 47F or myself.

Kind Regards,

Padma

Position no 62349551

Information Access Unit

Department of Veterans' Affairs



The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of the land throughout Australia and their continuing connection to country, sea and community. We pay our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their cultures and to their elders past, present and emerging.

From: s 47E <s 47E@dva.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 April 2024 8:45 AM
To: Hancock, Veronica <Veronica.Hancock@dva.gov.au>
Cc: s 47E <s 47E@dva.gov.au>
Subject: FOR FAS CLEARANCE: Attention LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good morning Veronica,

Please find attached AS cleared Search Minute for your clearance please.

Nadine has provided the following advice:

This is a completed Search Minute further to request to then PRD Division on 22 Feb 2024 with input due on 1 March 2024.

This request was for emails and teams message for the period 1 October 2023 to 10 February 2024 of the Assistant Secretary, Community Policy and Research Branch that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it, and calendar entries for the days of 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024.

On 29 Feb 2024 a response was provided from me to the IAU team (copied below) including whether the scope could be limited.

On 1 April the IAU advised verbally the requestor did not agree to limit the scope and to provide the documents as soon as possible in a TRIM container to be provided. I advised the earliest would be 5 April given I would need to seek assistance. I advised the IAU today, 9 April 2024 the request was almost completed and would with them shortly.

Carly Predovan

Executive Assistant to Veronica Hancock
First Assistant Secretary, Research, Evaluation and Data Division
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Tel (s 47F) Ext s 47F
s 47F

www.dva.gov.au



From: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>

Sent: Tuesday, 9 April 2024 5:20 PM

To: s 47E

Subject: For Clearance: Attention LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

For Veronica's review please – please provide the following, and advise Veronica I am available to discuss.

This is a completed Search Minute further to request to then PRD Division on 22 Feb 2024 with input due on 1 March 2024.

This request was for emails and teams message for the period 1 October 2023 to 10 February 2024 of the Assistant Secretary, Community Policy and Research Branch that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it, and calendar entries for the days of 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024.

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Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Research Branch

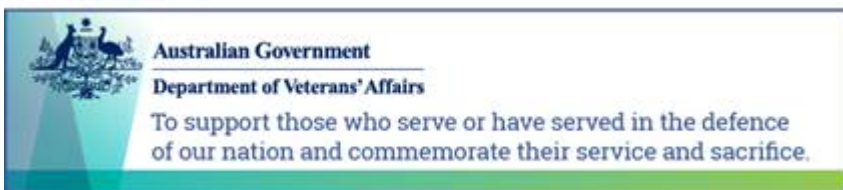
Research, Evaluation and Data Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: s 47F **Ext:** s 47F **Mobile:** s 47F

nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au

EA: TBC. Point of contact is s 47F

s 47F



From: s 47F Taylor s 47F

Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2024 6:08 PM

To: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Nadine

Please find attached as requested, documents identified from LEX – 65295 - Search Minute – JENNY and added into the TRIM container provided by the Information Access Unit – **2403045**.

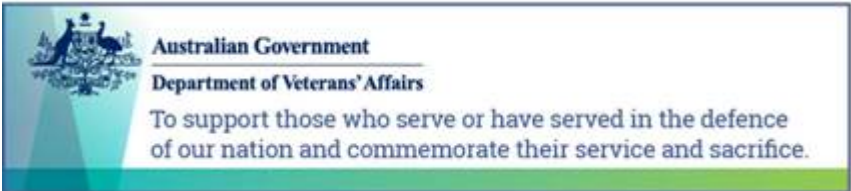
Time taken – **8 hours**

Total pages – **342**

For your further review, please let me know if there is anything further I can do to support.

Kind regards
Taylor

Taylor s 47F | Research Officer
Research & Evaluation Strategic Partnership (RESP)
Research Branch | Research, Evaluation and Data Division
Tel **s 47F**
s 47F
www.dva.gov.au



From: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 11:57 AM
To: **s 47F** Joshua **s 47F**
Cc: **s 47F** Cassandra **s 47F** **s 47F** Taylor **ss 47F**
Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks so much

Taylor – this is the work I need your assistance please (and thank you). I will organise some time with you on Thursday.

Nadine Clode
Assistant Secretary, Research Branch
Research, Evaluation and Data Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs
Ph: **s 47F** **Ext:** **s 47F** **Mobile:** **s 47F**
nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au
EA: TBC. Point of contact is **s 47F** **s 47F**



From: **s 47F** Joshua **s 47F**
Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 11:20 AM
To: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>
Cc: **s 47F** Cassandra **s 47F**
Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Joshua | Assistant Director

Position Number: 62336362

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Department of Veterans' Affairs

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

Information.Access@dva.gov.au

www.dva.gov.au

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Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 9:22 AM

To: s 47F Joshua s 47F

Cc: s 47F Cassandra s 47F

Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Thanks Josh

I have found a staff member (Taylor s 47F to assist me with this work, and I will arrange access to my mails and we aim to have them put in the TRIM calendar by the end of this week – if you could please arrange access that will be helpful (as well as myself).

Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Research Branch

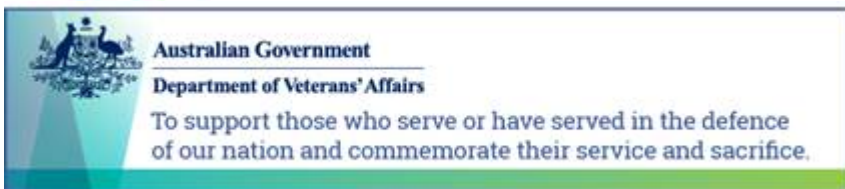
Research, Evaluation and Data Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: s 47F **Ext:** s 47F **Mobile:** s 47F

nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au

EA: TBC. Point of contact is s 47F

s 47F



From: s 47F Joshua s 47F

Sent: Tuesday, 2 April 2024 10:20 AM

To: Clode, Nadine <Nadine.Clode@dva.gov.au>

Cc: s 47F Cassandra s 47F

Subject: RE: Attention Padma: PRD24059 - Due to PRD Coord COB Friday 1 March - LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

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Nadine Clode

Assistant Secretary, Community Policy & Research Branch
Policy & Research Division, Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: s 47F Ext s 47F Mobile: s 47F

nadine.clode@dva.gov.au; www.dva.gov.au

EA: TBC. Point of contact for week of 26 Feb is s 47F



From: s 47E

Sent: Thursday, 22 February 2024 11:28 AM

To: s 47E

Cc: Clode, Nadine ; s 47E

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Carly Predovan

Executive Assistant to Adam Weideman
A/g First Assistant Secretary, Policy & Research Division
Department of Veterans' Affairs

Tel (s 47F Ext s 47F
s 47F

www.dva.gov.au



From: s 47F Padmaja s 47F **On Behalf Of** s 47E
Sent: Thursday, 22 February 2024 11:10 AM
To: s 47E <s 47E dva.gov.au>
Subject: LEX - 65295 - Search Minute - JENNY [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear colleagues,

The department has received a new information access request from JENNY under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act). The request was received on 19 February 2024 and was made in the following terms:

'...I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

I also request copy of any email or Teams entry of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research made between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it.

The names of any individual who is not a SES employee of the Department is irrelevant as are signatures, emails, phone numbers and desk locations.

Where a document produced contains information which is not official information but personal private activity then that part is irrelevant and may be removed.

As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know...

Your area has been identified as the area that is most likely to hold additional documents relevant to the request. Please confirm by **27/02/2024** the following information:

- The nominated contact officer for this request (the person who will be the contact person for our team to liaise with).
- Whether or not this request is sensitive (this includes, but is not limited to, requests likely to attract SES, ministerial or media interest).
- Whether there are any other line areas that may hold documents relevant to the request.

I have attached a search minute for the nominated contact officer to complete. A signed copy of the search minute and the documents relevant to the scope of the request must be sent to s 47E dva.gov.au no later than **COB 05/03/2024**

The FOI Act has strict statutory timeframes and a decision on access must generally be made 30 days after the day the FOI request is received. This is why the above timeframes have been specified. More information on the FOI process can be found [here](#).

If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact Cassandra **s 47F** or myself.

Kind Regards,

Padma
Position no 62349551
Information Access Unit
Department of Veterans' Affairs

From: INFORMATION.ACCESS
Sent: Wednesday, 24 April 2024 4:06 PM
To: 'Jenny'; INFORMATION.ACCESS
Subject: LEX 65295 Jenny – Request update [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Good afternoon Jenny,

Thank you for your emails regarding your FOI request with the Department.

I am able to provide you with an update regarding your case.

We have reconsidered whether a practical refusal reason exists on the grounds of the request being too voluminous. This was originally considered because the business area responsible for this case has a small number of staff and the sourcing and reviewing of documents would have posed a significant burden to their everyday processes.

We have proceeded to identify a number of documents which are potentially within scope of your request and are undertaking our initial review. This is taking longer than anticipated due to staffing pressures within the Department.

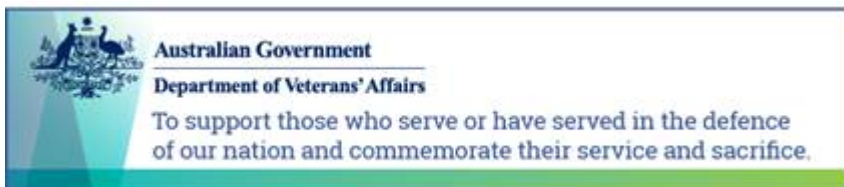
I thank you for your patience while we undertake this process and hope to be able to provide you with a decision on this matter shortly.

Kind regards,

Cassandra | A/g Assistant Director
Position Number: 62258141
Information Access Unit
Ministerial, International & Stakeholder Relations Branch
Ministerial, Communication & Engagement Division
Department of Veterans' Affairs



P: 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)
E: Information.Access@dva.gov.au
W: www.dva.gov.au



-----Original Message-----

From: Jenny <foi+request-11144-64f1181c@righttoknow.org.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 April 2024 12:33 PM
To: INFORMATION.ACCESS <INFORMATION.ACCESS@dva.gov.au>
Subject: Re: RESPONSE REQUIRED **** LEX 65295 Jenny – s24AB Practical Refusal Consultation Notice [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Dear INFORMATION.ACCESS,

Is there a reason you have still not responded to the notice of your failure to provide a decision, even though months have passed?

Is this just rudeness on your part, or something more sinister?

These multiple failures by DVA to give decisions in the times specified by the FOI Act is a deliberate and intentional strategy it now is demonstrated. Is flouting your statutory obligations just how DVA operates? The Royal Commission was long overdue it seems.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny

-----Original Message-----

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information (FOI) request, received by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (the Department) on 19 February 2024. The scope of your request is as follows:

'...I request for the purposes of the FOI Act copy of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research's official diary and/or calendar

entries for 16 October 2023 and 5 February 2024, that can be produced using computers ordinarily available to the Department.

I also request copy of any email or Teams entry of the Assistant Secretary Community Policy & Research made between 1 October 2023 and 10 February 2024 that has "DDVA HREC" or "HREC" in it.

The names of any individual who is not a SES employee of the Department is irrelevant as are signatures, emails, phone numbers and desk locations.

Where a document produced contains information which is not official information but personal private activity then that part is irrelevant and may be removed.

As there has been significant media reporting on this matter please ensure that the FOI decision and documents released are accessible for all, consistent with the purpose and object of Right to Know...'

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you that a practical refusal reason exists, with regards to your request, on that grounds that processing your request is likely to result in a substantial and unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources from its other operations (section 24AA(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act).

As explained in the attached document, please consider revising your request to make it more manageable, for example, by providing narrowing the scope of the second part of your request.

Please provide your response via return email by 19 March 2024 (14 days from the date of this notification) in order for us to continue processing your request.

Please be aware that if you decline to refine the scope of your request, your request may result in a practical refusal decision.

Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding this process.

Kind regards,

Cassandra | A/g Assistant Director

Information Access Unit

Ministerial, International & Stakeholder Relations Branch

Ministerial, Communication & Engagement Division

Department of Veterans' Affairs

1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

E: [1][DVA request email]

W: [2]dva.gov.au

[3]cid:image007.jpg@01D97E71.443616E0

References

Visible links

1. [mailto:\[DVA request email\]](mailto:[DVA request email])
2. <https://www.dva.gov.au/about-us/overview/reporting/freedom-information>

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

foi+request-11144-64f1181c@righttoknow.org.au

This request has been made by an individual using Right to Know. This message and any reply that you make will be published on the internet. More information on how Right to Know works can be found at:

<https://www.righttoknow.org.au/help/officers>

Please note that in some cases publication of requests and responses will be delayed.

If you find this service useful as an FOI officer, please ask your web manager to link to us from your organisation's FOI page.
