



Australian Government

Defence

FOI 222/24/25

James Smith

Via email: foi+request-12065-xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxx.xx

Dear Mr Smith,

NOTIFICATION OF A REQUEST CONSULTATION PROCESS – FOI 222/24/25

I refer to your request for access to the following documents, in the possession of the Department of Defence (Defence) under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (FOI Act).

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 this agency from its other operations due to its size. This is called a 'practical refusal reason' (section 24AA).

On this basis, I intend to refuse your request. 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.

Reason for Intending to Refuse Your Request

In your request, you sought access to the following documents:

'Please provide an export from Sentinel which lists all MRH90 safety incidents that were/are notifiable to Comcare'.

Section 24(1) of the FOI Act provides that an agency may refuse to give access to documents in accordance with an FOI request if:

- a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request; and
- following a request consultation process under section 24AB of the FOI Act, the agency is satisfied that the practical refusal reason still exists.

Section 24AA(1)(a)(i) of the FOI Act provides that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to an FOI request if the work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the department from its other operations.

Defence has been utilising the Sentinel database since 2014 and there are many documents/records that will fall within the broad scope of your request. I anticipate that many of the records that are captured are not what you are seeking in regards to the MRH90.

Request Consultation Process

You now have an opportunity to revise your request to enable Defence to process 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, Defence 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.

The consultation period starts on the day after you receive this notice and ends on 16 October 2024.

During this period, you are welcome to seek assistance from the contact person I have listed below to revise your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal reason outlined above, we will recommence processing it. (Please note that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purposes of the 30 day time limit for processing your request.)

In your consideration of submitting a revised request, you may like to consider:

- providing advice on what type of records you're are seeking. For example;
 - personnel injury related records;
 - minor personnel injury related records;
 - significant/life threatening injury related records; and
 - aircraft only matters.
- a specific timeframe you seek records for.

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.

Contact Officer

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

Freedom of Information Case Manager

Email: foi.casemanagement@defence.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Joanne GROVES Digitally signed by Joanne GROVES
Date: 2024.10.02 16:29:13 +10'00'

Mrs Joanne Groves
Accredited Decision Maker
Army Headquarters
Department of Defence