



Name: CR

e-mail: foi+request-12112-a2127fd9@righttoknow.org.au

Dear CR,

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST [FOI202425/18]

I refer to your request submitted 01 October 2024 for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) relating to:

1. *The most recent 30 notices of charges issued to FOI applicants.
For each of these 30 requests, if applicable, please also provide:*
2. *Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following applicant contention.*
3. *Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following internal or external review.*

The time period for my request is from 1 July 2022 to 1 October 2024.

A copy of your full request can be found in **Attachment A**.

Response to Your Request

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act. The ABS has conducted a search for documents relating to your request. I am able to notify you that 15 documents were identified that relate to your request. I have decided to grant access to 15 documents in part.

I have added a schedule of documents in **Attachment B**. The documents being released under FOI can be found in **Attachment C**.

Section 22 – Irrelevant to Request

I have decided that all documents contain some information that is irrelevant to your request. These documents contain material which is out of scope of the request.

Decision and Reasons for Decision

I have taken the following into account in making my decision:

- Email correspondence between yourself and the FOI team.
- The content of the documents that fall in scope of your request.
- The views of the document authors and other relevant facts.
- The relevant provisions of the FOI Act, specifically s22 of the FOI Act.
- Guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under s93A of the FOI Act.



Charges

There is no charge for this request.

Internal Review of the Decision

Section 54 of the FOI Act gives you the right to apply for an internal review of the decision by the ABS. Additionally you may request a review of this decision by the Information Commissioner. Details of both procedures involved in an application to review a decision are set out at **Attachment D**.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

Melissa Gare
A/g Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics

01 November 2024

Basics

"Adam Horrigan"
adam.horrigan@abs.gov.au

09/10/2024 09:48 AM

Send	To "Policy & Legislation Section WDB" <policy.and.legislation.section.wdb@abs.gov.au> cc bcc
Subject	FW: Acknowledgement of your FOI request ABS reference: [FOI202425/18] [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Protective Mark	OFFICIAL
Information management markers	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy Caveat <input type="checkbox"/>
Categories	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2024/25

ATIO

FULL HEADER

VER=2018.4, NS=gov.au, SEC=OFFICIAL, ORIGIN=adam.horrigan@abs.gov.au

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

From: CR <foi+request-12112-a2127fd9@righttoknow.org.au>
 Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2024 9:28 PM
 To: Adam Horrigan <adam.horrigan@abs.gov.au>
 Subject: Re: Acknowledgement of your FOI request ABS reference: [FOI202425/18] [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless
 you recognise the sender
 and know the content is safe

Dear FOI Officer,

I am writing to amend the scope of my FOI request to assist with its processing.

As I wish to access only recent charge decisions, I have introduced a time frame and clarified the exclusions. I confirm the revised scope of my request as follows:

1. The most recent 30 notices of charges issued to FOI applicants.

For each of these 30 requests, if applicable, please also provide:

2. Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following applicant contention.

3. Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following internal or external review.

The time period for my request is from 1 July 2022 to 1 October 2024.

Please exclude the following information:

i) Personal information of FOI applicants, including supporting evidence or details of personal circumstances in a financial hardship contention.

ii) Emails that attached the charges notices/decision letters.

iii) Names and contact details of non-Senior Executive public servants, and the mobile phone numbers of Senior Executive public servants.

iv) Draft versions of documents.

v) Duplicate documents.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any clarification or have further questions regarding this request.

Yours sincerely,

CR

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

Dear CR,

I refer to your application in which you seek access to documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act) (ABS reference FOI 202425/18) regarding:

"1. The most recent 30 notices of charges issued to FOI applicants.

For each of these 30 requests, if applicable, please also provide:

2. Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following applicant contention.

3. Any subsequent decisions regarding charges following internal or external review."

I acknowledge your request for the personal information of FOI applicants to be excluded.

Your request was received by the ABS on 01/10/2024 and the 30-day statutory period for processing your request commenced from the day after that date.

Before I commence processing your request can you please confirm the following via return e-mail:

1. Whether you agree to the names and contact details of non-Senior Executive public servants, and the mobile phone numbers of Senior Executive public servants being excluded from the scope of this request;
2. Where there are a number of drafts of a document, whether you are seeking access to those drafts, or only the final version of documents (this includes the latest version where no 'final' version was issued);
3. Where there are duplicate documents, whether you agree to exclude them from the scope of this request.

It is ABS policy to impose charges consistent with section 29 of the FOI Act. We will inform you of our decision in this respect once we have conducted a search for documents.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this email.

Kind regards

Lucinda Brown

Policy Officer

Policy and Legislation Section | Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch | Australian Bureau of Statistics

(E) [1][email address] (W) [2]www.abs.gov.au

References

Visible links

1. [mailto:\[email address\]](mailto:[email address])
2. <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

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

foi+request-12112-a2127fd9@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://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.righttoknow.org.au%2Fhelp%2Fofficers&data=05%7C02%7Cpolicy.and.legislation.section.wdb%40abs.gov.au%7C11608959bdf42f5fdbb08dce7eb4a8c%7C34cdb737c4fa4c219a3488ac2d721f88%7C0%7C0%7C638640244948764926%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IklhaWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9lpMhX0zuP8n%2Bw4Ef9lxQTLUPFrkKBihE8YvmawIOTw%3D&reserved=0>

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.

FOI202425/18

Document Number	Release Status	Exemptions/Redactions Applied
1	Released in part	S22
2	Released in part	S22
3	Released in part	S22
4	Released in part	S22
5	Released in part	S22
6	Released in part	S22
7	Released in part	S22
8	Released in part	S22
9	Released in part	S22
10	Released in part	S22
11	Released in part	S22
12	Released in part	S22
13	Released in part	S22
14	Released in part	S22
15	Released in part	S22



FOI Ref: FOI202324/24

Name: S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 29 April 2024 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$1,121.20.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 30 hours	\$450
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 33.56 hours (after the first five hours)	\$671.20
TOTAL CHARGE	\$1,121.20

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$1,121.20, you will be required to pay a deposit of **\$280.30** before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at [REDACTED].

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22** [REDACTED]). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text "S22".

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics

23/05/2024



FOI Ref: FOI202324/24

Name: S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S2

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 29 April 2024 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$526.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 30 hours	\$450
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 3.8 hours (after the first five hours)	\$76.80
TOTAL CHARGE	\$526.80

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of

charges for your request, which is \$526, you will be required to pay a deposit of **\$131.70** before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

S22

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics

19/06/2024

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 9:32 AM

To: S22 [REDACTED]@abs.gov.au>

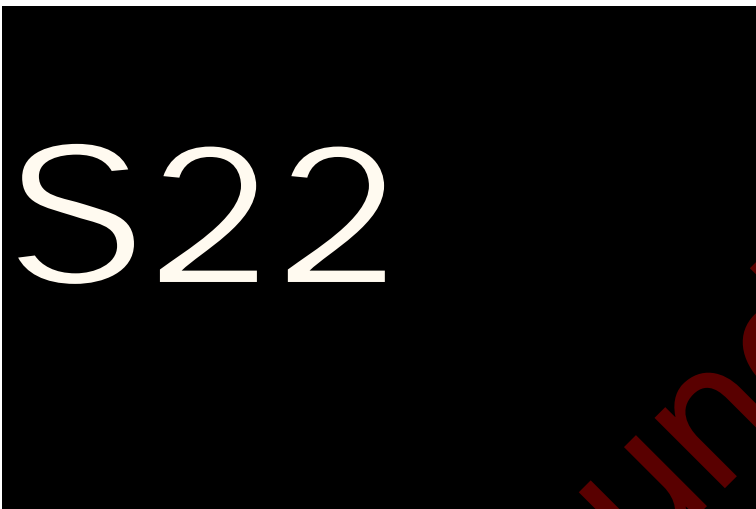
Subject: Re: Notification of charges for your FOI request FOI202324/24 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening S22 [REDACTED]

This appears to be an excessive charge for the scope I envisaged. Can you tell me more about what type of documents are included in this that extends the processing time so significantly? Ministerial directives or briefs in relation to this would appear to be fairly discrete documents and I would have thought the tests were finalised forms of surveys or something along those lines.

Would appreciate some further information on how this processing has blown out so significantly.



S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



FOI Ref: 202324/14

S22e-mail: **S22**Dear **S22**,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 28 November 2023 **S22** in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$387.55.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 9.08 hours	\$136.25
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 12.57 hours (after the first five hours)	\$251.30
TOTAL CHARGE	\$387.55

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$387.55, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$96.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

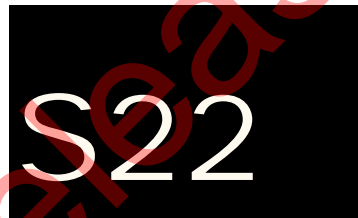
If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redaction of the sender's name and signature.

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics

16/01/2024

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202324/04

email: S22

Dear S22

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 28/08/23 at S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$406.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15.30 hours	\$229.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 8.84 hours (after the first five hours)	\$177.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$406.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$406.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$101.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

S22

Deborah Wallace
A/g Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
15 September 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



FOI Ref: FOI202324/03

S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S22

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 26 August 2023 at S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$118.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 7.2 hours	\$108.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 0.5 hours (after the first five hours)	\$10.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$118.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$118.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$29.50 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

S22

Deborah Wallace
A/g Program Manager
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
2 October 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/22

email: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 08 May 2023 S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$545.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15 hours	\$226.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 16 hours (after the first five hours)	\$319.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$545.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$545.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$136.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redacted signature.

Duncan Young
General Manager
Enterprise Strategy and Communications Division
Australian Bureau of Statistics
01/06/2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/21

email: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 01 May 2023 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$233.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15.5 hours	\$233.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 0 hours (after the first five hours)	\$0.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$233.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$233.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$58.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redaction of the sender's name and signature.

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
25/05/2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

Basics

"S22" 21/06/2023 04:29 PM
S22@abs.gov.au

Send	To "Policy & Legislation Section WDB" <policy.and.legislation.section.wdb@abs.gov.au> cc bcc
Subject	FW: Notification of Charges FOI202223/21 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Protective Mark	OFFICIAL
Information management markers	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy Caveat <input type="checkbox"/>
Categories	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022/23

From: S22 >
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4:21 PM
To: S22@abs.gov.au
Cc: S22@abs.gov.au; S22@abs.gov.au
Subject: Re: Notification of Charges FOI202223/21 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and the content is safe.

Hi S22

Apologies for delay in getting back to you.

Hoping to contend the charges on the basis the estimated hours and quoted charge amount for these hours seems high for what is an already refined scope of the request. Additionally, the information would be in the public interest. It's related to the rebrand of the BOM which was heavily covered by media in recent months and was funded by taxpayers. This information would be used to create a

media report, on a news website without a paywall meaning it has a greater potential to reach and benefit more Australia. In light of this information request being of such broad public benefit, I'm hoping the fee can we waived or at least reduced.

Thanks

S2

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
ABS House
45 Benjamin Way
Belconnen ACT 2617
Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
Belconnen ACT 2616
www.abs.gov.au
ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/21

e-mail: S22

Dear S22

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST [FOI202223/21]

I refer to your request submitted 01/05/2023 for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) relating to:

- "1. Documents sent by ABS Senior Executive Staff between 1 October 2022 and 1 May 2023 to the Bureau of Meteorology expressing concerns regarding their name re-branding to 'The Bureau'.*
- 2. For the same time period, documents sent internally between ABS SES related to the re-branding of Bureau of Meteorology to 'The Bureau'."*

Charges

On 25/05/2023 you were sent an estimate of charges letter, where you were informed the total charge for your request was \$233.00. On 21/06/2023 you responded to this letter, requesting a waiver or reduction on the basis that:

"the estimated hours and quoted charge amount for these hours seems high for what is an already refined scope of the request. Additionally, the information would be in the public interest. It's related to the rebrand of the BOM which was heavily covered by media in recent months and was funded by taxpayers. This information would be used to create a media report, on a news website without a paywall meaning it has a greater potential to reach and benefit more Australia. In light of this information request being of such broad public benefit, I'm hoping the fee can be waived or at least reduced."

Decision and Reasons for Decision

I have decided to grant you a full waiver of charges on the basis that the release is in the public interest.

I have taken the following factors into account in making my decision to reduce or not impose the charges, in line with section 29(5) of the FOI Act:

- a) whether the payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause financial hardship to you; and
- b) whether the giving of access to the document in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

I have also taken the following factors into account in making my decision, in line with section 4.99 of the FOI Guidelines:

- Whether a commercial or personal benefit or advantage will be derived from giving access to the material;
- Whether the documents are of general public interest or of interest to a substantial section of the public;
- If the information in the documents is publicly available; and
- Whether a substantial volume of documents has been requested and the level of work required to process the request.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area. The text 'S22' is printed in white, large, sans-serif font within the box.

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
27/06/2023



Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/14

email: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 30 January 2023 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$355.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 14 hours	\$214.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 7 hours (after the first five hours)	\$141.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$355.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$355.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$89 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

In your initial request you indicated that you were seeking a waiver of charges. If you wish to proceed with requesting a waiver, you should provide further explanation of the reasons for this. Reasons for waiving charges include financial hardship, public interest and any other relevant factors. Further information can be found in Part 4 of the FOI Guidelines ([Part 4 – Charges for providing access - Home \(oaic.gov.au\)](https://www.oaic.gov.au/foi-guidelines/part-4-charges-for-providing-access)).

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area. The text 'S22' is printed in white on the redacted area.

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
17 February 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



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 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

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 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/11

email: S22

Dear S22

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 10 November 2022 S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$97.13

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 3.28 hours	\$49.13
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 2.40 hours (after the first five hours)	\$48.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$97.13

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$25.00 and is less than \$100.00, a deposit of \$20.00 may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$97.13, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$20.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

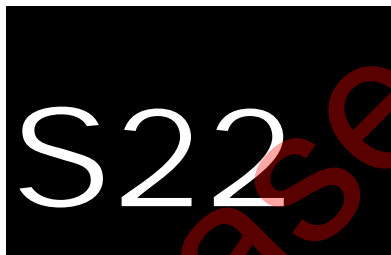
If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text "S22".

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
22 November 2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

Basics

Policy & Legislation Section WDB
Sent by S22

07/12/2022 10:46 AM

Send	To S22 cc S22 @abs.gov.au@M365, S22 @abs.gov.au@M365, S22 @abs.gov.au@M365 bcc
Subject	Re: Waiver of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Protective Mark	OFFICIAL
Information management markers	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy Caveat <input type="checkbox"/>
Categories	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022/23

Good morning S22

Thank you for your email dated 2 December 2022 in which you requested a waiver of charges for FOI202223/11 on the basis that the release of documents is in the public interest.

The ABS FOI decision maker has considered your request and has agreed to waive the charges. We will continue to process your request which is now due on or before the 23rd of December 2022.

Kind regards,

S22

Freedom of Information

Policy & Legislation Section | Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch

Australian Bureau of Statistics

(E) S22 @abs.gov.au (W) www.abs.gov.au

S22

S22

05/12/2022 11:40:40 AM

Basics

S22
[redacted]@abs.gov.au

05/12/2022 11:40 AM

Send	To "Policy & Legislation Section WDB" <policy.and.legislation.section.wdb@abs.gov.au> cc
Subject	FW: FW: Notification of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Protective Mark	
Information management markers	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy Caveat <input type="checkbox"/>
Categories	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022/23
Visibility	Limited Readers
Editors	PALS WDB Access, S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
Readers	PALS WDB Access, FOI Stakeholder Group, S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
Last modified	05/12/2022 12:49:09 PM By S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
Document Id	DCOO-CLT2VD

From: S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]>
Sent: Friday, 2 December 2022 4:36 PM
To: S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>
Cc: S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>; S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>
Subject: Re: FW: Notification of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and the content is safe.

Thanks S22 [redacted].

No I didn't receive it so appreciate the follow up.

Senate Estimates proceedings are an essential part of the democratic process . Given that Senate Estimates hearings are held in public to allow the Australian people to observe the scrutiny of expenditure , functions and activities of governments , their departments and agencies , it is in the public interest that information prepared for by Departments in connection with these hearings be made publicly available . As such , I request that the charge be waived entirely on public interests grounds .

I note decision FOI21/046 from the Attorney-General's Department where the file was provided , with appropriate redactions .

It is important to remember the objects of the FOI Act itself :

(1) The objects of this Act are to give the Australian community access to information held by the Government of the Commonwealth , by:

- (a) requiring agencies to publish the information ; and
- (b) providing for a right of access to documents .

(2) The Parliament intends , by these objects , to promote Australia's representative democracy by contributing towards the following:

- (a) increasing public participation in Government processes , with a view to promoting better-informed decision-making ;
- (b) increasing scrutiny , discussion , comment and review of the Government's activities .

Given the importance of the FOI Act in increasing public scrutiny and encouraging public debate .

Look forward to hearing from you soon in relation to my request .

S22

S22

From: S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 1:14 PM

To: S22 <S22>

Cc: S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>; S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>;

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
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 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

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www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/02

email: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 31 July 2022 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$369.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 19 hours	\$287.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 4 hours (after the first five hours)	\$82.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$369.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$369.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$92.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

S22

Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
25/08/2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/01

email: S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 7 July 2022 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$929.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 36 hours	\$540.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 19.5 hours (after the first five hours)	\$389.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$929.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$929.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$233.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

S22

Deborah Wallace
A/g Program Manager
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
03 August 2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Canberra Office
 ABS House
 45 Benjamin Way
 Belconnen ACT 2617
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10
 Belconnen ACT 2616

www.abs.gov.au
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202122/46

email: S22, S22, S22

Dear S22,

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to FOI request FOI202122/46 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision-making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$365.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • search of relevant ABS holdings • conversion of documents into a releasable format Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15 hours	\$225.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker • examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions) • consultation with other parties • redacting exempt material Estimated number of hours required: 7 hours (after the first five hours)	\$140.00
TOTAL CHARGE	\$365.00

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$365.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$92.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Meagher
Program Manager
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch
Australian Bureau of Statistics
08/07/2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

INFORMATION ON RIGHTS OF REVIEW

1. INTERNAL REVIEW OF DECISION

If you disagree with our decision you have the right to apply for an internal review under section 54 of the FOI Act.

Application for a review of the decision must be made within 30 days of receipt of this letter. No particular form is required but it would assist the decision-maker if you set out in the application the grounds on which you consider that the decision should be reviewed.

Application for an internal review of the decision should be e-mailed to freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au or posted to:

ABS FOI Contact Officer
Policy and Legislation Section
Australian Bureau of Statistics
Locked Bag 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

2. AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER REVIEW OF DECISION

Section 54L of the Act gives you the right to seek a review of the decision from the Information Commissioner. An application for review must be made within 60 days of receiving the decision.

Application for an Information Commissioner review of the decision should be e-mailed to foidr@oaic.gov.au or posted to:

Director of FOI Dispute Resolution
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

3. COMPLAINTS TO THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

Section 70 of the Act provides that a person may complain to the Information Commissioner about action taken by an agency in the exercise of powers or the performance of functions under the Act.

A complaint to the Information Commissioner must be in writing and identify the agency the complaint is about. It should be e-mailed to foidr@oaic.gov.au or posted to:

Director of FOI Dispute Resolution
GPO Box 5218
SYDNEY NSW 2001

The Information Commissioner may decline to investigate the complaint in a number of circumstances, including that you did not exercise your right to ask the agency, the Information Commissioner, a court or tribunal to review the decision.