



Information Requests

Via email: foi+request-12115-f10b1441@righttoknow.org.au

Dear CR

Decision on your Freedom of Information request

I refer to your revised request, received by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (**department**) on 8 October 2024 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth) (**FOI Act**) to the following documents:

- '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.'

On 18 October 2024, you further revised the scope of your request to exclude personal information and business information of third parties, as defined by the FOI Act.

My decision

The department holds 37 documents (totalling 135 pages) that relate to your request.

I have decided to grant you **part access** to 37 documents (documents 1-37) with some of the content removed.

I have decided that certain parts of documents that you have requested are exempt under the FOI Act as they contain information which would, or could reasonably be expected to, have a substantial adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of an agency and it would be against the public interest to disclose this information (section 47E(d)).

I have decided that certain parts of documents that you have requested are exempt under the FOI Act as the information is personal information about other people, the disclosure of which would be contrary to the public interest (section 47F(1)).

On 2 October 2024 the department acknowledged your request and advised you that we would not include personal details about our staff. You did not contact the department again about this. Staff details and information that is outside the scope of your request (including, as you have outlined above, personal information of FOI applicants and any emails that attached charges

notices/decision letters, as well as business information of FOI applicants) have therefore been deleted in accordance with section 22(1) of the FOI Act.

Please see the schedule at **Attachment A** to this letter for a detailed list of the documents and the reasons for my decision.

How we will send your documents to you

The documents are attached.

You can ask for a review of my decision

If you wish to seek an internal review, you must apply to the department within **30 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. An application for internal review must be made in writing by post to the FOI Officer or email to foi@aff.gov.au.

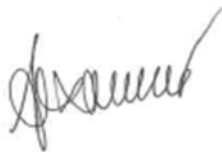
Alternatively, you may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (**OAIC**) to review my decision. An application for review by the Information Commissioner must be made in writing within **60 days** after the day you are notified of this decision. You may apply for an OAIC review through the following [link](#). You can also make a [complaint](#) to the Information Commissioner if you have concerns about how the department handled your request.

You can find information about requesting a review, making a complaint, and other information about FOI on the OAIC website www.oaic.gov.au or phone the OAIC on 1300 363 992.

Further assistance

If you have any questions, please email foi@aff.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Annabelle Alexander
General Counsel
Information, Litigation, Employment & Commercial Legal Branch
31 October 2024



LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR RELEASE

LEX-32385

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
1.	1-3	13/09/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	Page 1: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d). Pages 1 and 3: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).
2.	4-7	11/09/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	Page 4: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d). Page 7: personal information exempt under s 47F(1). Page 4: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
3.	8-10	30/08/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 8: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 10: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 8 : staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
4.	11-16	20/09/2024	Charges decision	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Pages 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 11, 12, and 15: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
5.	17-19	27/08/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 17: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 19: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 17: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
6.	20-23	14/08/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Pages 20 and 21: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 20 and 23: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
7.	24-26	05/08/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 24: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 24 and 26: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
8.	27-33	03/09/2024	Charges decision	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Pages 27, 30, 31, 32 and 33: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 27 and 29: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
9.	34-36	02/08/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Pages 34: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 36: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 34: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
10.	37-41	02/09/2024	Charges decision	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Pages 37, 39, 40 and 41: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 38: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 37: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
11.	42-44	19/07/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 42: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 44: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 42: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
12.	45-47	24/07/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 45: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 47: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 45: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
13.	48-53	19/08/2024	Charges decision	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Pages 48, 50, 51, 52 and 53: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 49: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Pages 48 and 52: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
14.	54-56	24/07/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 54: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 56: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 54: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
15.	58-59	19/07/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 57: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 57 and 59: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
16.	60-62	18/07/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 60: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 60 and 62: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
17.	63-66	05/07/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 63: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 63 and 66: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
18.	67-70	18/06/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 67: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 67 and 70: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
19.	71-74	04/06/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 71: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 71 and 74: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
20.	75-78	28/05/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 75: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 75 and 78: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
21.	79-81	17/05/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 79: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 81: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 79: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
22.	82-87	15/07/2024	Charges decision	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Pages 82, 84, 85 and 86: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 83: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 82: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
23.	88-90	15/05/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 88: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 88 and 90: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
24.	91-93	25/06/2024	FOI decision	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Pages 91 and 92: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 91-93: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
25.	94-96	15/05/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 94: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 94 and 96: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
26.	97-99	14/05/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 97: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 99: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 97: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
27.	100-102	05/04/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 100: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 102: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 100: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
28.	103-106	13/03/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 103: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 106: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 103: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
29.	107-109	05/03/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 107: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 107 and 109: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
30.	110-113	04/03/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Pages 110 and 111: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 113: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 110: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
31.	114-116	20/02/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 114: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 114 and 116: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
32.	117-120	19/02/2024	Charges and consultation notice	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 117: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 117 and 120: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
33.	121-123	01/05/2024	FOI decision	Release in part	s 47E(d)	<p>Page 121: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Pages 121-123: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
34.	124-126	12/02/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 124: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 126: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 124: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
35.	127-129	11/01/2024	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 127: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 129: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 127: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

Doc No.	Pages	Date	Description	Decision	Exemption	Comments
36.	130-132	11/12/2023	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 130: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 132: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 130: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>
37.	133-135	04/12/2023	Charges notice	Release in part	s 47E(d) s 47F(1)	<p>Page 133: information in relation to certain operations of agencies under section 47E(d).</p> <p>Page 135: personal information exempt under s 47F(1).</p> <p>Page 133: staff details and material which is out of scope of the request deleted under s 22(1)(a)(ii) (out of scope).</p>

REASONS FOR DECISION

What you requested

On 1 October 2024 you made the following request (**original request**):

'I request access to the following documents under the Freedom of Information Act 1982:

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.

Please exclude the following information:

i) Personal information of FOI applicants.'

Request consultation process

On 2 October 2024, the department acknowledged your original request and advised you that we would not include personal details about our staff. You did not contact the department again about this. Staff details have therefore been deleted in accordance with section 22(1) of the FOI Act.

On 8 October 2024, you revised the scope of your request to be:

'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.'

On 18 October 2024, you further revised the scope of your request to exclude personal information and business information of third parties, as defined by the FOI Act.

On 23 October 2024, you sent further correspondence regarding the scope of your request:

'If a preliminary charge notice or decision of a charge is sent via the body of an email (as opposed to an email attachment) I wish to access a copy of that email, as well as the applicant's contention reasons'.

On 24 October 2024, the department acknowledged this correspondence and confirmed:

'If the information within scope of your revised request dated 8 October 2024 was sent via the body of an email as opposed to an email attachment, we will include this email as within the scope of your request'.

In relation to accessing the 'applicant's contention reasons', I consider this is broader than the scope of the original request, and therefore do not consider your request to be revised to include these documents. However, where the applicant's contention reasons are discussed in a document that does fall within the scope of your request, for example, a charges decision, this has been taken to be part of the scope of your request.

In relation to documents 24 and 33, I consider that Attachment A to those decisions relates to the decision on documents the subject of the original FOI request, rather than to the decision on charges. This is why Attachment A to those documents has not been included.

What I took into account

In reaching my decision, I took into account:

- your original request dated 1 October 2024, your revised request of 8 October 2024, and your further revision of the request received on 18 October 2024;
- correspondence between you and the department on 23 and 24 October 2024;
- the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- consultation with third parties about documents which contain information concerning them;
- information about:
 - the nature of the documents; and
 - the department's operating environment and functions;
- guidelines issued by the Australian Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (Guidelines);
- the FOI Act.

Reasons for my decision

I am authorised to make decisions under section 23(1) of the FOI Act.

I have decided that certain parts of documents that you requested are exempt under the FOI Act. My findings of fact and reasons for deciding that an exemption applies to those documents are discussed below.

Section 47E(d) of the FOI Act – certain operations of agencies

I have applied the conditional exemption in section 47E(d) to parts of documents 1 to 37.

Section 47E(d) of the FOI Act relevantly provides:

A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under this Act would, or could reasonably be expected to, do any of the following:

...

(d) have a substantial adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of an agency.

Paragraph 6.115 of the Guidelines provides, in relation to section 47E(d) of the FOI Act, that:

The predicted effect must bear on the agency's 'proper and efficient' operations, that is, the agency is undertaking its expected activities in an expected manner. Where disclosure of the documents reveals unlawful activities or inefficiencies, this element of the conditional exemption will not be met and the conditional exemption will not apply.

The documents are charges notifications, charges decisions, and FOI decisions. Parts of the documents contain a description of the scope of the request made by the applicant under the FOI Act. Some of the documents also contain a discussion of the submissions made by an applicant in challenging charges issued by the department. I am satisfied that the material in the documents relates to the department's function of processing FOI requests consistent with the FOI Act.

I consider that the disclosure of this information would, or could reasonably be expected to have a substantial adverse effect on the proper and efficient conduct of this function. Specifically, in relation to the scope of the request, the disclosure would be inconsistent with the framework established by the FOI Act that allows applicants to make a request to an agency on a confidential basis. The name of the applicant and scope of the request made by the applicant is to be kept confidential. While the disclosure log provisions provide for the publication of documents released subject to exceptions (s 11C), only a short description of the documents is required on the disclosure log and not the full scope of the request itself. If the full scope of requests were made publicly available this may have a freezing effect on applicants being willing to use the freedom of information process to obtain government documents and would frustrate the purposes of the FOI Act, being to facilitate public access to information.

In relation to the applicant's reasons for challenging a charges contention decision, the FOI Act provides a confidential framework in which an applicant may challenge a charge issued by an agency. If an applicant's reasons for contesting a charge were made publicly available this may have a freezing effect on applicants being willing to put forward certain arguments and challenge the charges issued by agencies under the freedom of information process.

On this basis, I have decided that the information included in the documents referred to in the Schedule is conditionally exempt under section 47E(d) of the FOI Act.

Public interest considerations

Section 11A(5) of the FOI Act provides:

'The agency or Minister must give the person access to the document if it is conditionally exempt at a particular time unless (in the circumstances) access to the document at that time would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.'

When weighing up the public interest for and against disclosure under section 11A(5) of the FOI Act, I have taken into account relevant factors in favour of disclosure. In particular, I have considered the extent to which disclosure would promote the objects of the FOI Act.

I have also considered the relevant factors weighing against disclosure, indicating that access would be contrary to the public interest. In particular, I have considered the extent to which disclosure could reasonably be expected to:

- prejudice the department's ability to process FOI requests consistent with the FOI Act;
- prejudice third parties' willingness to make FOI requests; and
- prejudice third parties' willingness to contend charges decisions.

Based on the above factors, I have decided that in this instance, the disclosure of parts of the documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

I have not taken into account any of the irrelevant factors set out in section 11B(4) of the FOI Act in making this decision.

In summary, I am satisfied that parts of documents as set out in the Schedule, are conditionally exempt under section 47E(d) of the FOI Act. Furthermore I have decided that on balance it would be contrary to the public interest to release this information. Accordingly I have decided not to release the documents in full to you.

Section 47F of the FOI Act - unreasonable disclosure of personal information

I have applied the conditional exemption in section 47F(1) to parts of documents 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Section 47F of the FOI Act relevantly provides:

- '(1) A document is conditionally exempt if its disclosure under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).
- (2) In determining whether the disclosure of the document would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information, an agency or Minister must have regard to the following matters:
 - (a) the extent to which the information is well known;
 - (b) whether the person to whom the information relates is known to be (or to have been) associated with the matters dealt with in the document;
 - (c) the availability of the information from publicly accessible sources;
 - (d) any other matters that the agency or Minister considers relevant.'

Personal Information

The term 'personal information' is defined as follows:

'...information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:

- (a) whether the information or opinion is true or not; and
- (b) whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.'

Paragraph 6.125 of the Guidelines provides:

'Personal information can include a person's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, medical records, bank account details, taxation information and signature.'

I find that documents 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 36, and 37 contain personal information of other people. This includes their signatures.

Whether disclosure is 'unreasonable'

In addition to the factors specified in section 47F(2) of the FOI Act, paragraph 6.133 of the Guidelines provides:

'The personal privacy exemption is designed to prevent the unreasonable invasion of third parties' privacy. The test of 'unreasonableness' implies a need to balance the public interest in disclosure of government-held information and the private interest in the privacy of individuals.'

I am satisfied that the disclosure of the third party personal information would be unreasonable for the following reasons:

- you do not have the consent from this individual for the release of their personal information;
- the information is private and not available in full or in part from publicly-accessible sources; and
- the identity of the individual concerned is readily apparent or could be easily ascertained.

On this basis, I have decided that the personal information included in the documents as referred to in the Schedule is conditionally exempt under section 47F(1) of the FOI Act.

Public interest considerations

Section 11A(5) of the FOI Act provides:

'The agency or Minister must give the person access to the document if it is conditionally exempt at a particular time unless (in the circumstances) access to the document at that time would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.'

When weighing up the public interest for and against disclosure under section 11A(5) of the FOI Act, I have taken into account relevant factors in favour of disclosure. In particular, I have considered the extent to which disclosure would:

- promote the objects of the FOI Act.

I have also considered the relevant factors weighing against disclosure, indicating that access would be contrary to the public interest. In particular, I have considered the extent to which disclosure could reasonably be expected to:

- prejudice an individual's right to privacy.
- adversely affect or harm the interests of an individual, specifically that the release of a person's signature may increase the risk of the person being subjected to fraud including identity fraud.

Based on the above factors, I have decided that in this instance, the disclosure of the documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

I have not taken into account any of the irrelevant factors set out in section 11B(4) of the FOI Act in making this decision.

As identified in the Schedule, I have deleted the exempt information in the documents and released the remaining material in accordance with section 22(1) of the FOI Act.

Summary of my decision

In conclusion, I have decided to:

- grant you part access to 37 documents.

I have decided that:

- documents 1 to 37 are conditionally exempt, in part, under section 47E(d) of the FOI Act, and disclosure would be contrary to the public interest for the purposes of section 11A(5).
- Documents 2, 3, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 30, 34, 35, 36, and 37 are conditionally exempt, in part, under section 47F(1) of the FOI Act, and disclosure would be contrary to the public interest for the purposes of section 11A(5).