

Name: *Nosey*

e-mail: *foi+request-12576-0f5b6ef2@righttoknow.org.au*

Dear Nosey,

RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST [FOI202425/25]

I refer to your request submitted 14 December 2024 under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) in which you asked the ABS for:

“access to any and all documents, records, data, and supporting material held by [Name of Agency] concerning the sharing of personal information originating from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) over the last ten years.”

Purpose of this letter

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

I am writing to notify you that a practical refusal reason exists under Section 24AA(1)(a) of the FOI Act, as the work involved in processing your request in its current form would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of this agency from its other operations.

Grounds for a practical refusal of your request

I have decided that a practical refusal reason exists because:

As worded, this request includes searching for a broad range of documents. The ABS requires further clarification regarding the origin of the client information and the relevant information you seek in order to conduct a thorough and defensible search for documents.

Request consultation process

Before I make a final decision to refuse access, you have an opportunity to revise your request to enable it to proceed. Therefore, I am requesting a consultation process as set out under section 24AB of the FOI Act.

Revising your request may include, but is not limited to, providing more specific detail or further clarification on the information you are seeking, for example:

- specifying clearly the client information you are referring to (ABS collected client information or DVA collected client information) for each point in your request.
- reducing the broadness of the request and identifying more specific information you are hoping to receive.
- identifying documents or information that is irrelevant to the request.
- limiting the search to identify specific types documents or information.

- limiting the search to documents held by specific staff, such as SES or project management staff only.

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

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

The consultation period runs for 14 days and starts on the day after the date on this notice.

During this period, you are welcome to seek assistance from the ABS FOI team to revise your request. If you revise your request in a way that adequately addresses the practical refusal grounds outlined above, we will recommence processing it. Please note that the time taken to consult you regarding the scope of your request is not taken into account for the purpose of the 30-day time limit for processing your request.

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

Contact Person

If you would like to revise your request or have any questions, please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at: freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

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

06 January 2025