



22 Jan 2025

Nosey Rosey
Right to Know
By email: foi+request-12600-1359bd52@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Nosey Rosey

RE: Freedom of Information Request

I refer to your request received by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (the department) on 14 December 2024 for access under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to:

I am seeking documents held by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) concerning broad or systematic data-sharing arrangements involving personal information originating from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). Specifically, this includes:

Formal Agreements

Memoranda of understanding (MOUs), service-level agreements (SLAs), or other documents formalising the sharing of DVA client data with DFAT.

Governance Documents

Policies, procedures, or guidelines that detail how DFAT handles, stores, or uses personal information received from DVA.

Privacy and Ethical Deliberations

Any privacy impact assessments, internal reviews, or records discussing the ethical, legal, or privacy implications of handling DVA client data.

Intended Uses and Applications

Documents such as internal strategy papers, project proposals, or reports that explain why DVA client data was accessed or shared and its intended outcomes.

Exclusions

To streamline processing, I exclude:

Individual complaint files or case-specific records involving veterans.

Any information solely related to Centrelink Confirmation eServices (CCeS).

I am writing to provide you with a decision about your request.

Decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in relation to FOI requests and have been appointed as the decision-maker on your request.

Thorough searches conducted by the Australian Consulate in Canakkale, Turkey and the Australian Embassy in Turkey found no documents matching the description of the documents you requested.

In accordance with section 24A(1) of the FOI Act, your request for access to documents is refused as all reasonable steps have been taken to find the documents and I am satisfied that the documents do not exist.

Sections of the FOI Act referenced in my decision letter can be found online at www.legislation.gov.au.

Review rights

Information about your review rights is set out in the **Attachment** for your reference.

Contact

Should you have any queries regarding this decision please contact the Freedom of Information Section by email: foi@dfat.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. McNamara', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joseph McNamara
a/g Director
Freedom of Information Section



REVIEW AND COMPLAINT OPTIONS

If you consider the department made the wrong decision, please request a review.

If you are dissatisfied with the way your request was processed, please make a complaint.

REVIEW

How to seek a review of this decision

Internal review by the department

You may apply for internal review of the decision ([section 54 of the FOI Act](#)). The internal review application must be made within 30 calendar days from the day you receive this notice. Where possible, please attach reasons why you believe review of the decision is necessary.

A new decision maker, who was not involved in the initial decision, will review your request, and make a new decision within 30 calendar days.

Any request for internal review should be directed via email to foi@dfat.gov.au or addressed to:

Freedom of Information Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
R G Casey Building
John McEwen Crescent
Barton ACT 0221

External review by the Information Commissioner (IC)

You may apply to the Australian Information Commissioner to review this decision ([section 54L of the FOI Act](#)). To do this, you must contact the IC within 60 calendar days from the day you receive this notice.

Further information on applying for an IC review is available on Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's (OAIC) website.ⁱ

Third party review rights

Third parties who were consulted by the department are entitled to seek an internal review of the department's decision to grant access to a document.

Further information about third party review rights is available on OAIC's website.ⁱⁱ

You may also apply for an external review by the IC ([section 54L of the FOI Act](#)). To do this, you must make your application within 30 calendar days from the day you receive this notice.

COMPLAINT

How to make a complaint about process

Complaint to the department

If you wish to make a complaint about how your FOI request was processed by the department, we welcome you sending an email with the details of your complaint to the department in the first instance via foi@dfat.gov.au.

Complaint to the IC

You may also make a complaint to the IC about the Department's actions in relation to this decision ([section 70 of the FOI Act](#)).

Further information about how to make a complaint is available on OAIC's website.ⁱⁱⁱ