



Harry Williams

Via email: foi+request-12851-235502cf@righttoknow.org.au

Dear Mr Williams

Freedom of Information Request 53001 – Notice of intention to refuse

I refer to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (FOI Act)* request made to the Department of Social Services (**the Department**) on 19 February 2025. The request seeks access to:

all briefs and emails within the department regarding gambling, gambling harm, gambling national consumer protection framework, BetStop and gambling activity statements.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021.

I am authorised to make decisions in respect of FOI requests under subsection 23(1) of the FOI Act.

Practical refusal reason

This request generally seeks every brief and email that contains a reference to gambling that was generated over the course of 12 months. Amongst the documents it captures is the core business output of the Gambling Policy team. As the request would capture every email generated by the team over the course of a year, the request easily captures hundreds, if not thousands of documents.

I consider that the Department has limited capacity to process a request of this size. The work involved in processing the request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Department from its other operations.

In accordance with s 24(1) of the FOI Act, I consider that a practical refusal reason exists in relation to the request for access to documents.

Request consultation process

Under section 24(1)(b) of the FOI Act, the Department is required to provide you with the opportunity to revise the scope of your request so that a 'practical refusal reason' no longer exists. One way you could achieve this is to refine the scope of your request, for example by seeking specific Ministerial briefs that are focussed on the specific aspect of gambling policy that you are interested in.

Please note that refining the scope of the request may remove the practical refusal reason, but does not necessarily mean that any documents subject to the request will be released in part or in full.

Next steps

Should you wish to revise the request, you must do so **within 14 days** after the day you are sent this notice. The 14 day deadline ends at **11:59pm on 7 March 2025** by which time you are required to take one of the below actions. If you are unable to meet this deadline and require an extension of time to discuss ways to revise the scope of your request, please contact the FOI Section by email at foi@dss.gov.au.

In accordance with subsection 24AB(6) of the FOI Act, you must, before the end of the 14-day consultation period, do one of the following by written notice to the department:

- a) withdraw the request;
- b) make a revised request; or
- c) indicate that you do not wish to revise the request.

Please note that under subsection 24AB(7), the request is taken to have been withdrawn at the end of the 14 day consultation period if:

- a) the applicant does not consult the contact person during the consultation period in accordance with this notice; or
- b) the applicant does not do one of the things mentioned in subsection(6) before the end of the consultation period.

In accordance with subsection 24AB(8) of the FOI Act, the 14-day consultation period is to be disregarded in calculating the processing period for the request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sarah B', written in a cursive style.

Sarah B
Authorised FOI Decision Maker
21 February 2025