



22 May 2019

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 18/11/00216

File Number: ADF2018/221558

s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 01 November 2018, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a decision on your request for access under the FOI Act.

1 Scope of request

You have requested access to the following documents:

*Operational staff employed in processing, assessing and deciding applications.
Number of employees in positions dedicated to the processing, assessing and
deciding visa applications and citizenship applications in the following categories as
at 30 June 2016, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018:*

- 1) *General Skilled Migration, subclasses 189 and 190;*
- 2) *ENS/RSMS;*
- 3) *Partners first stage, subclass 820;*
- 4) *Partners second stage, subclass 801;*
- 5) *Partners second stage, subclass 100; and*
- 6) *Citizenship.*

2 Authority to make decision

I am an officer authorised under section 23 of the FOI Act to make decisions in respect of requests to access documents or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the documents relevant to the request
- the FOI Act
- Guidelines published by the Office of the Information Commissioner under section 93A of the FOI Act (the FOI Guidelines)
- advice from Departmental officers with responsibility for matters relating to the documents to which you sought access

4 Documents in scope of request

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department has used its computer system to produce one documents that contains the information within the scope of matters 1-5 of your request, and one document ('document 2') that contains information that is similar in nature to the information required at point 6 of your request. The data produced in the documents existed in the possession of the Department on 01 November 2018 when your FOI request was received.

Document 2 is provided as an alternative to address your information requirements at point 6 of your request as it contains information about operational staff employed within the department as citizenship decision makers in 2013 and 2018. We sent this document to you on 09 May 2019 and asked that you confirm with us, in writing, whether or not this would be a satisfactory alternative to the information you requested in point 6. We asked that you provide us with your confirmation before close of business on Monday 13 May 2019, after which time we would deem you to have accepted document 2 as satisfactory to address your information requirements in point 6. At this time of decision, this timeframe has expired without further communication from you, thus we have deemed that point 6 of your scope is met by our release of document 2 to you.

Attachment A is a schedule which describes the relevant documents and sets out my decision in relation to each of them.

5 Decision

The decision in relation to the documents in the possession of the Department which fall within your request is as follows:

- Release one document in full
- Release one document in part with deletions

6 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Series/C2004A02562>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

7 Your Review Rights

Internal Review

If you disagree with this decision, you have the right to apply for an internal review by the Department of this decision. Any request for internal review must be provided to the Department within 30 days of you being notified of the decision. Where possible please attach reasons why you believe a review of the decision is necessary. The internal review will be carried out by an officer other than the original decision maker and the Department must make a review decision within 30 days.

Applications for review should be sent to:

By email to: foi.reviews@homeaffairs.gov.au

OR

By mail to:
Freedom of Information Section
Department of Home Affairs
PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2617

Review by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

You may apply directly to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) for a review of this decision. You must apply in writing within 60 days of this notice. For further information about review rights and how to submit a request for a review to the OAIC, please see Fact Sheet 12 "Freedom of information – Your review rights", available online at <https://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-review-process>.

8 Making a Complaint

You may complain to the Australian Information Commissioner about action taken by the Department in relation to your request.

Your enquiries to the Australian Information Commissioner can be directed to:

Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email enquiries@oaic.gov.au

There is no particular form required to make a complaint to the Australian Information Commissioner. The request should be in writing and should set out the grounds on which it is considered that the action taken in relation to the request should be investigated and identify the Department of Home Affairs as the relevant agency.

9 Contacting the FOI Section

Should you wish to discuss this decision, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Section at foi@homeaffairs.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

[Electronically signed]



**Authorised Decision Maker
Department of Home Affairs**

ATTACHMENT A**SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS
REQUEST UNDER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1982**

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File Number: ADF2018/221558

| No. | Date of document | No. of pages | Description | Decision on release | |
|-----|------------------|--------------|--|---------------------|--------------|
| | | | | | |
| 1. | - | 1 | <i>(Table) Number of employees in positions dedicated to the processing, assessing and deciding visa applications as at 30 June 2016, 30 June 2017 and 30 June 2018</i> | Release in full | |
| 2. | - | 1 | <i>Department's response to FA 19/02/00459 containing, among other things, details of APS4 primary decision makers for Australian citizenship applications as at 01/01/2013 and 01/01/2018</i> | Partial | 22(1)(a)(ii) |