



11 June 2019

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 19/05/00368

File Number: OBJ2019/27409

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 02 May 2019, 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:

- *There is a perception that 190 visa grants have been purposely slowed by the department since November 2018.*
- *We would like to request any discussions or documents pertaining to 190 visa processing , allocation and grants that have taken place since July 2018 until now*

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

The Department has identified 19 documents as falling within the scope of your request. These documents were in the possession of the Department on 2 May 2019 when your request was received.

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department has also used its computer system to produce one document that contains the information that falls within the scope of your request. The data produced in the document existed in the possession of the Department on 02 May 2019 when your FOI request was received.

5 Decision

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

- Release one document in full
- Release 19 documents in part, with redactions.

6 Reasons for Decision

Detailed reasons for my decision are set out below.

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

6.1 Section 22 of the FOI Act – irrelevant to request

Section 22 of the FOI Act provides that if giving access to a document would disclose information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request, it is possible for the Department to prepare an edited copy of the document, modified by deletions, ensuring that the edited copy would not disclose any information that would reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to the request.

Departmental policy is that the personal details of officers who are not in the Senior Executive Service (SES), as well as the mobile and work contact details of SES staff which are contained in documents that fall within scope will be deleted. On review of the information I find that these details, and information in other sections of the document that

are redacted and marked 's.22(1)(a)(ii)' would disclose information that could reasonably be regarded as irrelevant to your request. I have therefore prepared an edited copy of the document, with the irrelevant material deleted pursuant to section 22(1)(a)(ii) of the FOI Act.

Other information in the document has been released to you as it is relevant to your request.

7 Legislation

A copy of the FOI Act is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2017C00251>. If you are unable to access the legislation through this website, please contact our office for a copy.

8 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 <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/foi-reviews>.

9 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.

10 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.



Authorised Decision Maker | Freedom of Information Section
FOI and Records Management Branch
Productivity and Compliance Division | Corporate and Enabling Group
Department of Home Affairs

ATTACHMENT A

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

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No	Date of document	No. of pages	Description	Decision on release	
1.	-	1	(Response to) Freedom of Information Request – FA 19/02/00618	Release in full	-
2.	01/11/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 05/11/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
3.	15/11/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 19/11/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
4.	29/11/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 03/12/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
5.	10/01/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 14/01/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
6.	24/01/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 28/01/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
7.	21/02/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 25/02/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
8.	21/03/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 25/03/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
9.	04/04/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 08/04/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
10.	-	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 28/04/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
11.	09/05/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 13/05/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
12.	8/11/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 12/11/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)

No	Date of document	No. of pages	Description	Decision on release	
13.	23/11/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 26/11/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
14.	06/12/18	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 10/12/2018	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
15.	17/01/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 21/01/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
16.	07/02/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 11/02/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
17.	08/03/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within skilled visa programs for 11/03/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
18.	12/04/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within the skilled visa programs for 01/04/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
19.	12/04/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within the skilled visa programs for 15/04/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)
20.	02/05/19	1	Email correspondence re allocations of applications within the skilled visa programs for 06/05/2019	Release in part	22(1)(a)(ii)