



2 March 2018

[Redacted]

In reply please quote:

FOI Request: FA 17/11/01132
File Number: ADF2017/12772

Dear [Redacted]

Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision

On 29 November 2017, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection received a request for access to document under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act).

On 20 December 2017 the Home Affairs Portfolio, including the Department of Home Affairs, was formally established. The Department of Home Affairs includes the entirety of the Department of Immigration and Border Protection, the Australian Border Force and the Office of Transport Security from within the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. It also includes specific functions from the Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Social Services and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

As such a decision has now been made on your request by the Department of Home Affairs (the Department).

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 document:

1. *Any available records that give figures or costs for the days lost by officers of the DIBP and its contractors involved with detention centres, boat turnbacks and refoulements because of:*
 - *stress or post traumatic stress disorder arising from incidents experienced, encountered or made aware of through work with or for your Department, preferably concentrating on the above activities, including secondments to the governments of Nauru or Papua New Guinea;*
 - *sick leave;*
 - *stress leave.*

If such records are available, I would appreciate receiving them for each year from when Australia started detaining, turning back or refouling people, whose arrivals were unscheduled.

- 2. Any copies of records that indicate staff turnover for the Department and its contractors, preferably concentrating on personnel involved with the above operations, over the same period.*

To explain, I am trying to limit the scope of your work to records dealing with your Department's processing of unscheduled arrivals as much as practicable. However, I realise that not all records (insurance premiums may be an instance) will be disaggregated to the extent necessary for abstracting the impacts of current policies concerning unscheduled arrivals on its personnel and associates.

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 document or to amend or annotate records.

3 Relevant material

In reaching my decision I referred to the following:

- the terms of your request
- the document 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 document to which you sought access
- the Department's guidance material on the FOI Act

4 Document in scope of request

In accordance with section 17 of the FOI Act, the Department has used its computer system to produce one document that contains information that falls within the scope of your request. The data produced in the document existed in the possession of the Department on 29 November 2017 when your FOI request was received.

The Department does not hold historical combined data sets from before 2015 and unscheduled leave is recorded as sick leave only. Data on Contractor leave and turnover is not available to the Department as it is managed by external providers, therefore a complete set of data to cover all aspects of the Freedom of Information request is not available.

5 Decision

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

- Release one document in full

6 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.

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

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:

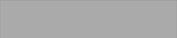
Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

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.


**FOI Officer | Freedom of Information Section
FOI, Privacy and Records Management Branch
Corporate Services Division
Department of Home Affairs**