



18 April 2018

BY EMAIL:

**In reply please quote:**

FOI Request: FA 18/02/00737

File Number: ADF2018/19406

Dear

**Freedom of Information (FOI) request - Access Decision**

On 14 February 2018, the Department of Home Affairs (the Department) received a request for access to document 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 document:

*I am seeking to obtain details about the annual number of permanent residence visas issued for each of the 21 six-digit occupations in ANZSCO Minor Group '233 Engineering Professionals' (see table on next page under Engineering Occupations of Interest). I am seeking this information for the five financial years listed below:*

2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

2015-16

2016-17

*For each engineering occupation, for each of the five financial years listed above, in addition to the total number of permanent visas granted, I am also seeking a breakdown of the annual number of visa grants for the following visa categories:*

- Skilled Independent visa (subclass 189)
- Skilled Nominated visa (subclass 190)
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186)

- *Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187)*
- *Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887)187)*
- *Skilled Regional visa (subclass 887).*

## **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 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 Searches for Data and 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 14 February 2018 when your FOI request was received.

The Department has undertaken reasonable searches in relation to the documents you have requested to access.

The relevant business area for your request has advised that there is no occupation data available for Skilled Regional visas (subclass 887). As such, this data cannot be provided to you.

Having regard to your request and the types of document that may fall within the scope of your request I am satisfied that the searches conducted were extremely thorough and all reasonable steps have been taken to locate any document relevant to your request.

## **5 Decision**

Section 24A of the FOI Act provided that the Department may refuse a request for access to a document if all reasonable steps have been taken to find the document and the Department is satisfied that the document does not exist.

Having considered the searches outlined above, I am satisfied that the Department has undertaken reasonable searches in relation to your request and that there was no occupation data concerning Skilled Regional visas (subclass 887) in possession of the Department on 14 February 2018 when your FOI request was received. As such I am refusing access that data based on the application of section 24A of the FOI Act.

The decision in relation to the document in the possession of the Department which falls 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](mailto: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:

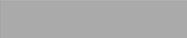
Phone 1300 363 992 (local call charge)

Email [enquiries@oaic.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:foi@homeaffairs.gov.au).

  
**Authorised Decision Maker**  
**Department of Home Affairs**