



Australian Government

Department of Defence

Office of the Chief Operating Officer

Freedom of Information and
Information Management Branch
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Our reference: FOI 111/12/13

[REDACTED]

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

1. I refer to your email, dated 19 September 2012, in which you requested access, under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act), to:

"...statistical data dating back five years which includes a breakdown by service, locality, positive test results, negative test results and administrative outcomes, relating to the illegal drug use in the ADF. Please include any tests for synthetic drugs if they are being done by the ADF."

Background

2. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the decision relating to your request.

FOI decision maker

3. Mr Robert McKellar, Director Workforce Strategy, Defence People Group is the accredited decision maker, under the FOI Act, in relation to your request.

Documents identified

4. Mr McKellar identified one document, being a nine page report titled "*Summary of Results for Prohibited Substance Testing*". Mr McKellar advised that the report was compiled for the express purpose of responding to your request from summary information held in the Prohibited Substance Testing Program databases maintained by each service.

Decision

5. Mr McKellar decided to release the identified document intact. A copy of the document is at Enclosure 1.

6. Notwithstanding the above, Mr McKellar advised that while the Prohibited Substance Testing Program collects statistics on administrative outcomes nationally, these statistics are not collected by region.

7. Further, Mr McKellar advised that the testing program and subsequent administrative action are distinct processes administered by separate areas within each of the services. Further, he noted that discharge location does not necessarily relate to the region where the member tested positive to a prohibited substance, it is likely that individual personnel files would need to be recalled and physically checked in order to obtain such detail.

Payment of Charges

8. In our letter, dated 21 September 2012, the department estimated the cost associated with processing your request to be [REDACTED]. You agreed to pay charges for the administration of your request and paid the preliminary assessment amount in full on

9. Upon completion of your request, the actual amount for processing was calculated to be [REDACTED]. Because the total amount you have already paid was more than the actual charges a refund of [REDACTED] is due. To enable us to process your refund, could you please complete the form at Enclosure 2 and return it to the address on the form via email or post.

Rights of review

10. The FOI Act provides for rights of review of decisions. A copy of the fact sheet "Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights" setting out your rights of review is at Enclosure 3.

11. The FOI Act can be accessed online at: <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/C2011C00803>

FOI Disclosure Log

12. In accordance with the requirements of section 11C of the FOI Act, Defence is required to publish details of information released under the FOI Act. Defence publishes identified documents relating to requests within two working days of receipt by the applicant. Defence will also publish this decision notice with privacy deletions.

Further advice

13. Should you have any questions in regard to this matter please contact me on (07) 3332 6359. Alternatively, the FOI team can be contacted on the details at the top of this letter.

Yours sincerely



Theresa Stinson
Assistant Director – Media Case Management
Freedom of Information

18 October 2012

Enclosures:

1. Document in form for release
2. Freedom of Information Refund Processing Form
3. Fact Sheet: Freedom of Information – Your Review Rights