

From: [FOI](#)
To: [Enquiries](#)
Subject: RQ17/01728 - 15AB Extension request - AFP - CRM 2018/42 [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
Date: Friday, 15 September 2017 11:31:41 AM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
Importance: High

UNCLASSIFIED

Dear OAIC,

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) is seeking an extension under section 15AB of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the FOI Act) to complete the request. The AFP will be requesting a further period of 30 days to 15 October 2017 to complete the remaining steps left in the process.

Applicant Name: [REDACTED]

Applicant contact details: [REDACTED]

The decision was due on 16 August 2017. An extension of time was sought from the applicant under s15AA due to an increase in the volume of applications and the absence of key personnel to assist with the processing of requests. This increase significantly impacted on the processing of this request. The applicant agreed to the s15AA extension extended the due date to 15 September 2017.

The AFP now makes an application to the Information Commissioner, pursuant to section 15AB of the Act, to extend the period of time by 30 days.

In support of this application, we provide the following:

The AFP FOI Team has received a significant increase in FOI applications over the past few months, whilst also experiencing staff shortages and absences. This resulted in team members' caseloads doubling. This request, in particular, was received by this team during a period where a high volume of requests were being actioned and processed. This meant that work on this file stalled for a period of time. Unfortunately, these delays were being experienced by all team members and as a product of this, a back log of requests occurred. At present we are continuing to work through the back log, however, new FOI requests are being received and actioned daily. While the AFP has addressed the personnel issues, the next few months should see the team eventually processing FOI applications in a timely manner.

Due to the nature of the request, initial requests for documents were sent to two different line areas within the AFP. The relevant documents were received by the FOI Team on 14 August 2017. However, due to the reasons mentioned above, assessment of the file has only taken place recently due to the original case officer having left the area requiring the assignment of a new case officer causing further delays which the case was reassessed.

The AFP also believes that further time is required so the AFP can undertake a considered assessment of the documents to ensure a proper and informed decision is made under the FOI Act.

Additionally, there will be a requirement to seek further comment from the line areas and AFP Executive before final release. A Brief to the Minister, due to the politically sensitive content and notification to AFP National Media is also required on this request.

On this date, the case officer sent an email to the applicant apologising for the extra delays and advising [REDACTED] that we are continuing to process [REDACTED] request and we are endeavouring to finalise the matter as soon as possible.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 15AB of the Act, the AFP makes an application to the Information Commissioner to extend the period of time by 30 days to allow a decision to be made within statutory timeframes.

If you require further information regarding this matter, please contact this office.

Please forward any correspondence in relation to this matter to foi@afp.gov.au

Kind regards,

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