



ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

Trim Reference: FOI:2013/00207



Dear 

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 14 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the FOI Act), received by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate on 4 September 2013, in which you requested access to the following:

All information relating to the number and nature of emergency staff (including police, ambulance and fire officers, and other ESA personnel) who have been the victim of assaults in the workplace or while on the job in 2011-2013. Also requesting all information on the number and nature of any other serious or critical workplace injuries suffered by the above staff for 2011-13, including but not limited to workplace accidents. Also requesting information relating to changes to practices and procedures put in place as a result of any of the above incidents.

I am the officer authorised under section 22 of the Act to make a decision in relation to your request.

One document has been identified in relation to your request providing a summary of the Accident/Injury Report Forms submitted by members of the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) during financial years 2011-12 and 2012-13. The document contains two reports meeting the criteria specified in your request. The first report provides a summary of all incidents meeting the ACT Public Sector's definition of occupational violence. In accordance with your conversation with this office on 4 September 2013, the second report provides a summary of reports that the staff member having five or more days off work and/or requiring treatment at hospital.

I have decided that the document identified within the scope of this request can be released to you in full under the FOI Act. Please see the schedule at **Attachment A** for further information on what is being released.

I note you have also requested information relating to changes to practices and procedures put in place as a result of any of the reported incidents. Unfortunately, I have assessed that the work involved in fulfilling this request would substantially and unreasonably divert the resources of the Directorate from its other operations and is therefore refused in accordance with section 23 of the Act. The Directorate may be able to assist should you wish to refine the scope of this request.

I note that you have also requested information in relation to injuries to police officers. Unfortunately, the ACT FOI Act does not apply to records held by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) as the AFP is a Commonwealth Government agency and is consequently subject to the Commonwealth *Freedom of Information Act* 1982. As such, your request for access cannot be considered by the Directorate or referred to ACT Policing under the ACT FOI Act.

I have also assessed your request for information under the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy and have determined that the documents relevant to your request, not including your original application, **will** be published online in part. Specifically, information from the event descriptions will be redacted under section 41 of the FOI Act to protect the personal privacy of the individuals concerned. For more information about the ACT Government's Online Freedom of Information Publication Policy, visit http://www.cmd.act.gov.au/open_government/report/freedom_of_information_online

You have a right to seek a review of the outcome under section 59 of the Act. You have 28 days from the date of this letter, or such other period as the Director-General permits, to seek a review. This right of review extends to a review of the adequacy of the search for documents undertaken by the Directorate. If you wish to seek a review you should write to:

The Director-General
ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate
C/- Freedom of Information Officer
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You also have the right to contact the Ombudsman regarding the processing of your request. If you wish to discuss this matter with the Ombudsman you should write to:

The Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If you have any queries concerning this Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the FOI Coordinator, Ms Lauren Callow on 6207 2167.

Yours sincerely,



Ms Liz Beattie
A/g Executive Director
People and Workplace Strategy
31 October 2013