



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2023-352

| Information to be published | Status |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Access application | Published |
| 2. Decision notice | Published |
| 3. Documents and schedule | N/A |
| 4. Additional information identified | No |
| 5. Fees | N/A |
| 6. Processing time (in working days) | 15 |
| 7. Decision made by Ombudsman | N/A |
| 8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman | N/A |
| 9. Decision made by ACAT | N/A |
| 10. Additional information identified by ACAT | N/A |

From: no-reply@act.gov.au
To: [CMTEDD FOI](#)
Subject: Freedom of Information request
Date: Wednesday, 11 October 2023 10:14:35 AM

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please find online enquiry details below. Please ensure this enquiry is responded to within fourteen working days.

Your details

All fields are optional, however an email address OR full postal address must be provided for us to process your request. An email address and telephone contact number will assist us to contact you quickly if we need to discuss your request.

Title:
First Name:
Last Name:
Business/Organisation
Address:
Suburb:
Postcode:
State/Territory:
Phone/mobile:
Email address:

A large grey rectangular area redacting the contact details provided in the form.

Request for information

(Please provide as much detail as possible, for example subject matter and relevant dates, and also provide details of documents that you are not interested in.)

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2016 I want to access the following document/s (*required field):

From the ACT Revenue Office website concerning those who download the Residential Tenancy Agreement (RTA). i) the number of RTA downloaded overall since it was available as a download ii) the number of RTA downloaded per year From the ACT Revenue Office website concerning those who submit a rental bond: iii) the total number of bonds submitted to date iv) the total number of bonds submitted on an annual basis since the rental bond submission process began.

I do not want to access the following documents in relation to my request::

Thank you.
Freedom of Information Coordinator



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 11 October 2023, in which you sought access to:

From the ACT Revenue Office website concerning those who download the Residential Tenancy Agreement (RTA). i) the number of RTA downloaded overall since it was available as a download ii) the number of RTA downloaded per year From the ACT Revenue Office website concerning those who submit a rental bond: iii) the total number of bonds submitted to date iv) the total number of bonds submitted on an annual basis since the rental bond submission process began.

Authority

As an appointed Information Officer under section 18 of the Act, I am authorised to make a decision on access to government information in the possession or control of CMTEDD.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application by 22 November 2023.

Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant information within the scope of the access application. While the ACT Revenue Office (ACTRO) does not hold information about the number of RTA downloads in respect of items (i) and (ii) of the request, it has been possible to generate statistical data in relation to (iii) and (iv).

I have decided to grant **full access** to the statistical data, tabled as follows:

| The total number of rental bonds lodged with ACTRO since it took over the management of ACT rental bonds in 2017 - | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Year | Rental Bonds lodged per year |
| 2017-18 | 19,036 |
| 2018-19 | 19,565 |
| 2019-20 | 20,803 |
| 2020-21 | 18,975 |
| 2021-22 | 18,011 |
| 2022-23 | 20,028 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| 2023-24 (up to 24 October 2023) | 6,488 |
|---------------------------------|-------|

Pursuant to section 54(2) of the Act, a statement of reasons outlining my decision follows.

Statement of Reasons

As a decision maker, I am required to determine whether the information within scope is in the public interest to release. To make this decision, I am required to:

- assess whether the information would be contrary to public interest to disclose as per Schedule 1 of the Act, and
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring non-disclosure in Schedule 2.

I did not identify any Schedule 1 provisions as relevant to this request.

Public Interest under schedule 2 of the Act

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interests lies. As part of this process, I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

Taking into consideration the information found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest:

- (a) disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:*
 - (ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;*

I have placed weight on the above factor favouring disclosure. It is reasonable to expect that information about this topic may be of interest to the Canberra community and contribute to informed debate about issues of interest.

I did not identify any factor favouring nondisclosure and have decided to release this information to you in full.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this request because the number of pages released to you is below the charging threshold of 50 pages.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CMTEDD disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published. You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at <https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log-2023>

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may use this form [Applying for an Ombudsman Review](#) to ensure you provide all of the required information. Alternatively, you may write to the Ombudsman:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

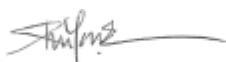
ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6205 9626 or email ACTRO.FOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,



Shu-Yen Ee
Information Officer
Revenue Management
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
1 November 2023