



ACT

Government

Education and Training

File Ref: 2012/04116



Dear 

I refer to your request, received by the Education and Training Directorate on 31 July 2012, under the ACT *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the Act).

Your request

I understand you are seeking access to:

Summary reports of all critical incidents at the ACT's schools between May 1, 2011 and July 25, 2012.

My decision

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

I understand that you have been contacted by the Directorate regarding the delay in responding to your request. Thank you for agreeing to an extension of time.

I note that you are seeking access to documents relating to the ACT's schools. The Education and Training Directorate does not hold any information relevant to your request that relates to non-government schools.

I also note that your request also includes the period 1 July to 25 July 2012. Information about critical incidents that occurred in this period will be included in the summary report for 1 July to 30 September 2012, which has not been prepared.

A schedule setting out the documents relevant to your request and my decisions in relation to their release is at Attachment A, and the released documents are at Attachment B.

You will also note from the schedule that I have decided to provide access to Documents 1, 2 and 3 with deletions under section 41 of the Act and to Documents 4 and 5 with deletions under sections 38 and 41 of the Act. Some information in Document 1 has also been deleted because it precedes the time frame of your request and is therefore outside the scope.

Details of the exemption provisions, together with my reasons for applying them, are set out below.

Section 38 – Documents to which secrecy provisions of enactments apply

Section 38 states:

A document is an exempt document if there is in force an enactment applying specifically to information of a kind contained in the document and prohibiting persons referred to in the enactment from disclosing information of that kind, whether the prohibition is absolute or is subject to exceptions or qualifications.

The information exempted from release under this section of the Act relates to mandatory reporting to which the confidentiality provisions of the *Children and Young People Act 2008* apply.

Section 41 – Documents affecting personal privacy

Section 41(1) states:

A document is an exempt document if its disclosure under this Act would involve the unreasonable disclosure of personal information about any person (including a deceased person).

Section 41 has been applied to summaries where although persons are not identified by name, the circumstances of the report and the naming of the school may reasonably be expected to lead to the identification of the persons concerned.

Outside scope information

Six summaries on the first page of Document 1 have been deleted because they relate to incidents that occurred in April 2011 and are therefore outside the scope of your request.

Your rights of review

My decision not to grant you access in full to these documents is subject to review under section 59 of the FOI Act. You may also seek a review if, in your opinion, you do not believe that all documents relevant to your request have been located. An information sheet outlining the review and appeal process provided for in the Act is attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely



Joanne Garrisson
Deputy Director-General

6 September 2012

Freedom of Information Act 1989 **Review and Appeal Processes**

Internal review

You may request a review of a decision made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (ACT). Requests for review must be made in writing to the Education and Training Directorate. Requests can be sent by fax (02 6205 9453) or by mail to:

The Director-General
C/- Information, Communications and Governance Branch
ACT Education and Training Directorate
PO Box 158
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

You have **28 days** from the date you received the decision to request a review. This period may be extended by the Director-General.

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal

If you are not satisfied after the Directorate has conducted an internal review, you may seek an independent review of the decision by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The Tribunal is an independent body which can affirm, change or reject the decision made by the Directorate and either substitute its own decision or send the matter back to the Directorate for reconsideration in accordance with the Tribunal's recommendations.

The Tribunal can be contacted by fax (02 6205 4855), email (tribunal@act.gov.au) or by mail to:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
DX5691
GPO Box 370
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

You have 28 days from the date of the internal review decision to appeal to the Tribunal.

An application for a review may be made by writing to the Tribunal, or by completing the *Application for Review of a Decision* form (available on the Tribunal's website at www.acat.act.gov.au). There is a fee for lodging an appeal with the Tribunal. This fee may be remitted under certain circumstances.

ACT Ombudsman

You also have the right to complain to the ACT Ombudsman about the processing of your request. If you wish to lodge a complaint you should write to:

ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

The ACT Ombudsman cannot override a decision made by the Directorate.