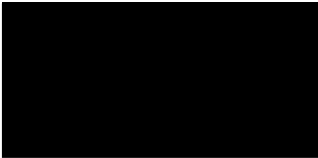




Our Ref: 14/125



Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989* (the FOI Act) received by the Community Services Directorate on 26 June 2014, with the following request:

- *"A breakdown for how many properties HACT held in each suburb, by year, for the years 1989 to 2013 inclusive (since the formation of self-government);*
- *The total number of properties owned, by dwelling type, for the years 1989 to 2013 inclusive;*
- *The number of Housing ACT properties that have remained vacant for 30 days or longer during the last 12 months; and*
- *The longest period of publicly owned housing property has remained vacant and the details of this property"*

Decision

I am the officer authorised under section 22 of the FOI Act to make a decision in respect of your request. The attached schedule outlines my decisions on access to the documents under your request.

I apologise for the delay in processing your application. However, I understand that Ms Jessica Gotovac has been in contact with you regarding the status of your application.

The following reports were extracted from the Housing ACT database and have been identified for release:

- Stock by Suburb 1989 – 2013;
- Stock by Type 1989 – 2013; and
- Properties Vacant for over 30 days

Please note that release of the identifying details for Housing ACT properties is protected under section 6A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

The reports provided on Stock by Suburb and Type have been provided for the period 1990-2013. Please note that information is not available for 1989. There are no identifying details in these reports and they have been released in full.

The report on Housing ACT properties vacant for 30 days or longer during the last 12 months includes information on both routine and non routine properties vacated since 1 July 2013.

Along with other jurisdictions, the ACT reports on vacants management in the Report on Government Services (RoGS) under the broad categories of routine and non routine properties. A non routine property is a property that cannot be re-let within the 28 day period because the property:

- has been earmarked for redevelopment;
- requires extensive disability modification to meet tenant needs;
- is fire affected;
- requires major refurbishments due to age, property damage or squalor; or
- is not able to be allocated because of the death of a tenant or other incident where a delay in the vacant time is outside Housing ACT's control e.g. criminal investigation

The report includes some property details, including a column headed "path" which provides some details of the reason for the vacancy. Please note this information is a categorization provided in Housing ACT's business system and does not provide the basis for a direct comparison with information available in the Report on Government Services (RoGS).

I have redacted identifying details of individual properties in this report in line with section 6A, *Freedom of Information Act 1989*.

Housing ACT has advised that the longest current vacant property became vacant on 3 November 2010. This property is part of a proposed redevelopment and is therefore a non routine property vacancy.

Review rights

My decision is appellable under the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*. This means that if you are dissatisfied with this outcome you have the right to seek a review under Section 59 of the FOI Act. 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:

Executive Director
Service Strategy and Community Building
Community Services Directorate
GPO Box 158
CANBERRA ACT 2601

You have 28 days from the date of receipt this letter to seek a review of the outcome or such other period as the Executive Director permits.

Under Section 54 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*, you also have a right to complain to the Ombudsman if you are concerned about the processing of your request or related administrative matters. The Ombudsman may conduct an independent investigation into your complaint.

There is no fee for this, and the contact details are as follows:

ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Online FOI Policy

Please be aware that under the ACT Government's Online FOI Publication Policy, this decision letter and attachments will be released on the internet. Please note your personal information will be redacted.

A copy of the ACT Government's Online FOI Publication Policy, with details about what information may be published on the internet, is available online at:
cmd.act.gov.au/open_government

If you have any questions in relation to this matter, I can be contacted on 6207 4433.

Yours sincerely



David Matthews
Senior Director
Strategic Reform and Governance
Y August 2014