



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Disclosure Log Publication Coversheet

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

Application Details	
Ref. No.	CMTEDDFOI 2026-195
Date of Application	15 July 2026
Date of Decision	21 August 2026
Processing time (in working days)	26
Fees	N/A
Decision on Access	Full Release
Information Requested (summary)	statistical information that provides the total expenditure by CMTEDD spent on consultants, contractors, labour hire personnel, and other externally engaged workers who are not employees of the ACT Public Service, for each financial year from 2021-22 to 2025-26
Publication Details	
Original application	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Decision notice	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Documents and schedule	☒ Published ☐ N/A
Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
Decision made by ACAT	N/A
Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

From: CMTEDD FOI
Subject: FW: Freedom of Information request - Expenditure on contractors, consultants and labour hire - CMTEDDFOI 2026-195

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 24 July 2026 11:58 AM
To: CMTEDD FOI <CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Freedom of Information request - Expenditure on contractors, consultants and labour hire - CMTEDDFOI 2026-195

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.

Dear CMTEDD FOI,

I agree to the following scope:

From the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), I am seeking statistical information that provides the total expenditure by CMTEDD spent on consultants, contractors, labour hire personnel, and other externally engaged workers who are not employees of the ACT Public Service, for each financial year from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (or the most recent period available).

Yours sincerely

-----Original Message-----

OFFICIAL

Good morning

Following up on the email sent to you on 21 July 2026. A response is required under section 34(4)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016, so your request can be progressed.

This application is suspended and processing will not continue because you have not replied to our clarification request.

In the meantime, your request is suspended under section 34(4)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016 (FOI Act). Your application will remain suspended until we receive a copy of the requested information. I note that under section 34 (6)(b) of the FOI Act we need not deal with your application further after 6 weeks (4 September 2026).

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact our team by telephone on 02 6207 7754 or email [email address].

Kind regards

CMTEDD Freedom Of Information Team
Phone: 02 6207 7754 | Email: [email address] Corporate | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government
220 London Circuit, Canberra ACT 2601 | GPO Box 158 Canberra ACT 2601 | act.gov.au

Please use this email address for all replies to this request:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Appendix A

Please note the published data until 2024-25 includes Access Canberra and part of Digital Canberra, which are no longer part of CMTEDD.

Consultant Fees, Contractors and Professional Services*	Amount	Reference
2021-2022	\$59,966	CMTEDD Annual Report 2021-22 - Volume 2.1, Page 43
2022-2023	\$62,402	CMTEDD Annual Report 2022-23 - Volume 2.1, Page 45
2023-2024	\$60,204	CMTEDD Annual Report 2023-24 - Volume 2.1, Page 36
2024-2025	\$63,110	CMTEDD Annual Report 2024-25 - Volume 2.1, Page 33
2025-2026	\$15,316	2025-26 annual report is under development

* Consultant fees, contractors and professional services are expenditure on external service providers engaged to deliver specialist advice, expertise or services are not readily available within the Directorate. This typically includes ICT, legal and financial advice, temporary personnel, technical specialists and project-based support to meet key government business needs (CMTEDD Annual Report 2024-25 – Volume 2.1, Page 32).



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – NOTICE OF DECISION

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 16 July 2026. Specifically, you have sought the following information:

“Under the FOI Act 2016, I request access to documents relating to ACT Government expenditure on contractors, consultants and labour hire arrangements. Specifically, I seek the total expenditure by the agency on consultants, contractors, labour hire personnel, and other externally engaged workers who are not employees of the ACT Public Service, for each financial year from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (or the most recent period available).”

On 24 July 2026 you agreed to the below scope clarification:

“From the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD), I am seeking statistical information that provides the total expenditure by CMTEDD spent on consultants, contractors, labour hire personnel, and other externally engaged workers who are not employees of the ACT Public Service, for each financial year from 2021-22 to 2025-26 (or the most recent period available).”

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the CMTEDD Director-General under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 days.

Therefore, a decision is due by **27 August 2026**.

Decision on access

Searches of CMTEDD records identified information within the scope of your request.

The information has been compiled into a document by the business unit.

I have decided to grant **full access** to the information within the document.

Release of documents

The information is being released to you as an appendix to this notice. Refer **Appendix A**.

Statement of Reasons

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decisions is below. In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your request
- *Information Privacy Act 2014*

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.
- perform the public interest test as set out in section 17 of the Act by balancing the factors favouring disclosure and factors favouring nondisclosure in **Schedule 2** of the Act.

Exemptions claimed

Schedule 1: Information taken to be contrary to the public interest.

No Schedule 1 factors were identified.

Public Interest Test

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

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when ‘used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from “the subject matter and the scope and purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Schedule 2: Factors to be considered when deciding the public interest.

Taking into consideration the information within 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 (Sch 2, s 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(i) - promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*
- *Section 2.1(a)(iv) - ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds.*

Considering this information, I find that release could inform positive debate on matters of public interest and contribute to discussions about the expenditure of public funds on consultants, contractors, labour hire personnel. I apply significant weight to these factors for disclosure.

I am satisfied that these factors favouring disclosure carry some weight. However, these factors are to be balanced against the factors favouring nondisclosure.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Sch 2, s 2.2)

- *No relevant sections identified*

Charges

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

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.

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 provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

We recommend using 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:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
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 the CMTEDD FOI Team by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Heather Johnston
Information Officer
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
21 August 2026