

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information – Notice of Decision

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) on 7 July 2026. It is my understanding you are seeking access to the following information:

- *“A database extract, summary report, or equivalent document detailing the total number of new provisional and open car driver's licences (Class C) issued annually in the ACT, broken down by transmission type (Manual vs. Automatic/Condition A). The data is requested for each calendar or financial year from 2016 up to the date of this request.”*

Thank you for providing the following statement on the public interest in your application. Your views have been considered in reaching my decision on your application:

- *“As a journalist, I am requesting this information for the purpose of media reporting on a matter of public interest. The transition away from manual vehicles impacts road safety policy, the automotive market, and driver training resources. Therefore, the release of this information is of special benefit to the public. On these grounds, I respectfully request a full waiver of any processing fees associated with this application.”*

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the FOI Act, CED is required to provide a decision on your access application within 30 working days. Therefore, a decision is due by 18 August 2026.

Authority

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

Decision on access

A search for records held by CED has been completed and one (1) record within the scope of your application has been identified. I have decided to grant full access to the record.

The reasons for my decision are detailed in the *statement of reasons* section below. The record being released to you is provided at **Attachment A**.

In considering the information being released, it should be noted that the ACT Government does not issue 'manual transmission licences'. Licences can be issued with an automatic transmission only condition, which acts as a prohibition on the type of vehicle a person can drive. There is no separate licence or condition relating to manual transmissions.

Statement of reasons

The FOI Act has a pro-disclosure bias, which requires information to be disclosed unless doing so would be contrary to the public interest. As an Information Officer, I am responsible for determining whether disclosure of the information within the scope of your application would be contrary to the public interest.

My assessment begins with Schedule 1 of the FOI Act, which outlines categories of information that are taken to be contrary to the public interest to disclose. If the information does not fall within any of these categories, I must then apply the public interest test under section 17 of the FOI Act. This test involves weighing the factors favouring disclosure against those favouring nondisclosure, as set out in Schedule 2.

In reaching my access decisions, I have taken the following into account:

- the FOI Act
- the information that falls within the scope of your application
- your views regarding the public interest
- the ACT Ombudsman FOI Guidelines.

I confirm that I have not considered any of the factors listed in section 17(2) of the FOI Act, which outlines a list of considerations that must not be taken into account when applying the public interest test.

Schedule 1 – Information taken to be contrary to the public interest

- *No relevant sections identified.*

Schedule 2 – Public interest test

Factors favouring disclosure (Schedule 2.1)

- *Section 2.1(a)(ii) - contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.*

In reviewing the information within the scope of your application, I consider that disclosure would promote open discussion of public affairs, specifically the number of provisional and open car driver's licences (Class C) issued annually in the ACT.

Factors favouring nondisclosure (Schedule 2.2)

- *No relevant factors have been identified.*

Balancing the factors

Having applied the public interest test outlined in section 17 of the FOI Act, I have concluded that the information contained in the records is in the public interest to disclose. Accordingly, I have decided to provide you with full access.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable for this application 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 FOI Act, CED maintains a disclosure log, which is a public record of access applications and decisions. Your original access application and my decision will be published on the CED disclosure log. Your personal contact details will not be published.

ACT Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access application is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek ACT Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the FOI Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is provided to you, or a longer period allowed by the ACT Ombudsman. If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

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 FOI 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
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<https://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Please contact the CED Information Access team if you have any queries in relation to your application via 6207 2987 or CEDFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

(signed electronically)

Craig Weller
Information Officer
City and Environment Directorate

11 August 2026