



Dear [REDACTED]

## Freedom of Information – Notice of Decision

I refer to your application under section 30 of the [Freedom of Information Act 2016](#) (the FOI Act), received by the City and Environment Directorate (CED) on 1 September 2025. Specifically, you are seeking access to the following information:

- a. *For each of the 2022, 2023 and 2024 calendar years: The total number of licences granted to use animals for research during each of these years;*
- b. *The name of each licence holder that was granted a licence to use animals for research during each of these years;*
- c. *The total number of animals used for research during each of these years;*
- d. *The total number of animals used for research during each of these years, broken down by the species of animal (i.e. how many of each species of animal were used for research during each of these periods).*

## 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. Under section 41 of the FOI Act, you agreed an additional amount of time to decide your application. Therefore, a decision is due on or by **19 December 2025**

## 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 CED records has been completed. The relevant information identified in 11 separate spreadsheets was collated into a single spreadsheet and licensing information provided in a separate document.

It was identified that the information within scope of points (c) and (d) of your application are reported for the financial year, and as such we cannot provide the requested information via calendar year.

Please note, regulation 7 of the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2001* requires Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) to report annually to the authority about how many animals were used or

bred, and the species of the animals. AEC's have 4 months after 30 June to submit their reports. Information for the 2024 – 2025 financial year is not yet available.

I have decided to:

- grant **full** access to one document, and
- grant **partial** access to one document.

The reasons for my decision are detailed in the *statement of reasons* section below. The information being released to you are provided at **Attachments A** and **B** with redactions applied to any information contrary to the public interest to release.

### **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
- the *Human Rights Act 2004*
- 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)(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.*

##### *Factors favouring nondisclosure (Schedule 2.2)*

- *Section 2.2(a)(ii) - prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.*

The information in scope includes the personal information (names of employees of third parties). This information was provided to government for the purposes of licence application with an expectation that their information would be used for this purpose only. It is my view that the information if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice the protection of

an individual's right to privacy. I have considered that the information has been provided to CED with the expectation that it is handled in accordance with published privacy statements and policies, and authority to access this information or evidence of identity to validate authority to release of personal information, has not been provided in the submission of your application. I consider that this information is not readily available to the public and has not otherwise been disclosed by CED.

### *Balancing the factors*

In reviewing the information within the scope of your application, I have decided that disclosure promotes open discussion of public affairs and enhances government's accountability generally. I have placed some weight on this factor.

However, I find that the protection of an individual's right to privacy also carries significant weight. In this instance, I have found the disclosure of personal information to be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Having applied the public interest test outlined in section 17 of the FOI Act, I have concluded that some information contained in the records is not in the public interest to disclose. Accordingly, I have redacted this specific information under section 50(2) of the FOI Act.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:CEDFOI@act.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

Craig Weller  
Information Officer  
City and Environment Directorate  
19 December 2025