



FOI Ref: FOI202324/24

Name: S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S22,

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 29 April 2024 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$1,121.20.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 30 hours	\$450
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 33.56 hours (after the first five hours)	\$671.20
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$1,121.20</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$1,121.20, you will be required to pay a deposit of **\$280.30** before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at [REDACTED].

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22** [REDACTED]). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22' in a large, bold, sans-serif font. This is a redacted signature.

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

23/05/2024



FOI Ref: FOI202324/24

Name: S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S2

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 29 April 2024 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$526.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 30 hours	\$450
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 3.8 hours (after the first five hours)	\$76.80
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$526.80</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of

charges for your request, which is \$526, you will be required to pay a deposit of **\$131.70** before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**S22**

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

19/06/2024

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act



Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 9:32 AM

To: S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>

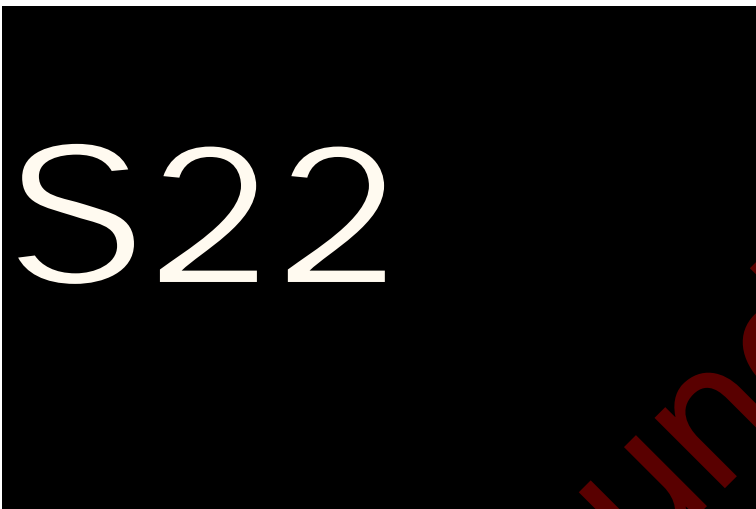
Subject: Re: Notification of charges for your FOI request FOI202324/24 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good evening S22

This appears to be an excessive charge for the scope I envisaged. Can you tell me more about what type of documents are included in this that extends the processing time so significantly? Ministerial directives or briefs in relation to this would appear to be fairly discrete documents and I would have thought the tests were finalised forms of surveys or something along those lines.

Would appreciate some further information on how this processing has blown out so significantly.



S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



FOI Ref: 202324/14

S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S22,

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 28 November 2023 S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$387.55.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 9.08 hours	\$136.25
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 12.57 hours (after the first five hours)	\$251.30
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$387.55</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$387.55, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$96.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

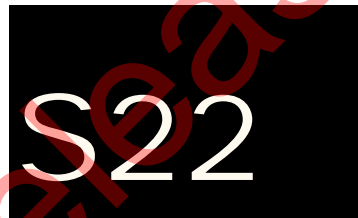
If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics

16/01/2024

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act



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**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202324/04

email: S22

Dear S22

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 28/08/23 at S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$406.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15.30 hours	\$229.00
Decision-making ( <b>after</b> deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 8.84 hours (after the first five hours)	\$177.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$406.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$406.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$101.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**S22**

Deborah Wallace  
A/g Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
15 September 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act



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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



FOI Ref: FOI202324/03

S22

e-mail: S22

Dear S22

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES

I refer to your email of 26 August 2023 at S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$118.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 7.2 hours	\$108.00
Decision-making ( <b>after</b> deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 0.5 hours (after the first five hours)	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$118.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$118.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$29.50 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**S22**

Deborah Wallace  
A/g Program Manager  
Legislative Compliance and Parliamentary Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
2 October 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act



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Released under FOIA Act

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**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/22

email: S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 08 May 2023 S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$545.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15 hours	\$226.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 16 hours (after the first five hours)	\$319.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$545.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$545.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$136.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:



- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redacted signature.

Duncan Young  
General Manager  
Enterprise Strategy and Communications Division  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
01/06/2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

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Released under FOIA Act

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**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/21

email: S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 01 May 2023 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$233.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15.5 hours	\$233.00
Decision-making ( <b>after</b> deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 0 hours (after the first five hours)	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$233.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$233.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$58.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redaction of the sender's name and signature.

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
25/05/2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

Basics

"S22" 21/06/2023 04:29 PM  
S22@abs.gov.au

<b>Send</b>	To "Policy & Legislation Section WDB" <policy.and.legislation.section.wdb@abs.gov.au> cc bcc
<b>Subject</b>	FW: Notification of Charges FOI202223/21 [SEC=OFFICIAL]
<b>Protective Mark</b>	OFFICIAL
<b>Information management markers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy <b>Caveat</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Categories</b>	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022/23

**From:** S22 >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 4:21 PM  
**To:** S22@abs.gov.au  
**Cc:** S22@abs.gov.au; S22@abs.gov.au  
**Subject:** Re: Notification of Charges FOI202223/21 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and the content is safe.

Hi S22

Apologies for delay in getting back to you.

Hoping to contend the charges on the basis the estimated hours and quoted charge amount for these hours seems high for what is an already refined scope of the request. Additionally, the information would be in the public interest. It's related to the rebrand of the BOM which was heavily covered by media in recent months and was funded by taxpayers. This information would be used to create a

media report, on a news website without a paywall meaning it has a greater potential to reach and benefit more Australia. In light of this information request being of such broad public benefit, I'm hoping the fee can we waived or at least reduced.

Thanks

S2

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



**Canberra Office**  
ABS House  
45 Benjamin Way  
Belconnen ACT 2617  
Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
Belconnen ACT 2616  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/21

e-mail: S22

Dear S22

**RE: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST [FOI202223/21]**

I refer to your request submitted 01/05/2023 for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) relating to:

- "1. Documents sent by ABS Senior Executive Staff between 1 October 2022 and 1 May 2023 to the Bureau of Meteorology expressing concerns regarding their name re-branding to 'The Bureau'.*
- 2. For the same time period, documents sent internally between ABS SES related to the re-branding of Bureau of Meteorology to 'The Bureau'."*

**Charges**

On 25/05/2023 you were sent an estimate of charges letter, where you were informed the total charge for your request was \$233.00. On 21/06/2023 you responded to this letter, requesting a waiver or reduction on the basis that:

*"the estimated hours and quoted charge amount for these hours seems high for what is an already refined scope of the request. Additionally, the information would be in the public interest. It's related to the rebrand of the BOM which was heavily covered by media in recent months and was funded by taxpayers. This information would be used to create a media report, on a news website without a paywall meaning it has a greater potential to reach and benefit more Australia. In light of this information request being of such broad public benefit, I'm hoping the fee can be waived or at least reduced."*

**Decision and Reasons for Decision**

I have decided to grant you a full waiver of charges on the basis that the release is in the public interest.

Released under FOI Act



I have taken the following factors into account in making my decision to reduce or not impose the charges, in line with section 29(5) of the FOI Act:

- a) whether the payment of the charge, or part of it, would cause financial hardship to you; and
- b) whether the giving of access to the document in question is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

I have also taken the following factors into account in making my decision, in line with section 4.99 of the FOI Guidelines:

- Whether a commercial or personal benefit or advantage will be derived from giving access to the material;
- Whether the documents are of general public interest or of interest to a substantial section of the public;
- If the information in the documents is publicly available; and
- Whether a substantial volume of documents has been requested and the level of work required to process the request.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area. The text 'S22' is printed in white, large, sans-serif font within the box.

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
27/06/2023



**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: FOI202223/14

email: S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 30 January 2023 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents, decision making and provision.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$355.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 14 hours	\$214.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 7 hours (after the first five hours)	\$141.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$355.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$355.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$89 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

In your initial request you indicated that you were seeking a waiver of charges. If you wish to proceed with requesting a waiver, you should provide further explanation of the reasons for this. Reasons for waiving charges include financial hardship, public interest and any other relevant factors. Further information can be found in Part 4 of the FOI Guidelines ([Part 4 – Charges for providing access - Home \(oaic.gov.au\)](https://www.oaic.gov.au/foi-guidelines/part-4-charges-for-providing-access)).

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text 'S22', which is a redaction of the sender's name and signature.

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
17 February 2023

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/11

email: S22

Dear S22

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 10 November 2022 S22 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$97.13

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 3.28 hours	\$49.13
Decision-making ( <b>after</b> deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 2.40 hours (after the first five hours)	\$48.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$97.13</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$25.00 and is less than \$100.00, a deposit of \$20.00 may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$97.13, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$20.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

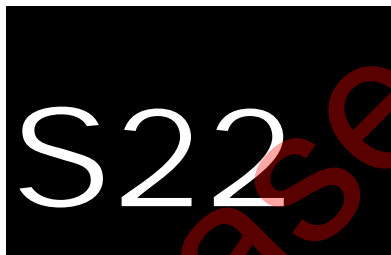
If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box containing the white text "S22".

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
22 November 2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

Basics

Policy & Legislation Section WDB  
Sent by S22

07/12/2022 10:46 AM

<b>Send</b>	To S22 cc S22 @abs.gov.au@M365, S22 @abs.gov.au@M365, S22 @abs.gov.au@M365 bcc
<b>Subject</b>	Re: Waiver of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
<b>Protective Mark</b>	OFFICIAL
<b>Information management markers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy <b>Caveat</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Categories</b>	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022\23

Good morning S22

Thank you for your email dated 2 December 2022 in which you requested a waiver of charges for FOI202223/11 on the basis that the release of documents is in the public interest.

The ABS FOI decision maker has considered your request and has agreed to waive the charges. We will continue to process your request which is now due on or before the 23rd of December 2022.

Kind regards,

S22

Freedom of Information  
Policy & Legislation Section | Parliamentary, Policy & Planning Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
(E) S22 @abs.gov.au (W) [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

S22

S22

05/12/2022 11:40:40 AM

Basics

S22  
[redacted]@abs.gov.au

05/12/2022 11:40 AM

<b>Send</b>	To "Policy & Legislation Section WDB" <policy.and.legislation.section.wdb@abs.gov.au> cc
<b>Subject</b>	FW: FW: Notification of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]
<b>Protective Mark</b>	
<b>Information management markers</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Personal privacy <input type="checkbox"/> Legal privilege <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative secrecy <b>Caveat</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Categories</b>	Freedom of Information\Requests\Valid\2022/23
<b>Visibility</b>	Limited Readers
<b>Editors</b>	PALS WDB Access, S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
<b>Readers</b>	PALS WDB Access, FOI Stakeholder Group, S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
<b>Last modified</b>	05/12/2022 12:49:09 PM By S22 [redacted]/Staff/ABS
<b>Document Id</b>	DCOO-CLT2VD

**From:** S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]>  
**Sent:** Friday, 2 December 2022 4:36 PM  
**To:** S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>  
**Cc:** S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>; S22 [redacted] <S22 [redacted]@abs.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Notification of charges for your FOI Request (FOI202223/11) [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and the content is safe.

Thanks S22 [redacted].

No I didn't receive it so appreciate the follow up.

Senate Estimates proceedings are an essential part of the democratic process . Given that Senate Estimates hearings are held in public to allow the Australian people to observe the scrutiny of expenditure , functions and activities of governments , their departments and agencies , it is in the public interest that information prepared for by Departments in connection with these hearings be made publicly available . As such , I request that the charge be waived entirely on public interests grounds .

I note decision FOI21/046 from the Attorney-General's Department where the file was provided , with appropriate redactions .

It is important to remember the objects of the FOI Act itself :

(1) The objects of this Act are to give the Australian community access to information held by the Government of the Commonwealth , by:

- (a) requiring agencies to publish the information ; and
- (b) providing for a right of access to documents .

(2) The Parliament intends , by these objects , to promote Australia's representative democracy by contributing towards the following:

- (a) increasing public participation in Government processes , with a view to promoting better-informed decision-making ;
- (b) increasing scrutiny , discussion , comment and review of the Government's activities .

Given the importance of the FOI Act in increasing public scrutiny and encouraging public debate .

Look forward to hearing from you soon in relation to my request .

S22

S22

---

From: S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, December 2, 2022 1:14 PM

To: S22 <S22>

Cc: S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>; S22 <S22@abs.gov.au>;

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act





**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/02

email: S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 31 July 2022 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$369.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 19 hours	\$287.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 4 hours (after the first five hours)	\$82.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$369.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$369.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$92.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**S22**

Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
25/08/2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act





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 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202223/01

email: S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to your email of 7 July 2022 (S22) in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$929.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 36 hours	\$540.00
Decision-making (after deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 19.5 hours (after the first five hours)	\$389.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$929.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$929.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$233.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,

**S22**

Deborah Wallace  
A/g Program Manager  
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
03 August 2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

Released under FOIA Act



**Canberra Office**  
 ABS House  
 45 Benjamin Way  
 Belconnen ACT 2617  
 Phone 1300 135 070

Locked Bag 10  
 Belconnen ACT 2616  
  
**www.abs.gov.au**  
 ABN 26 331 428 522

FOI Ref: 202122/46

email: S22, S22, S22

Dear S22,

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST: ESTIMATE OF CHARGES**

I refer to FOI request FOI202122/46 in which you sought access to information under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act).

The *Freedom of Information (Charges) Regulations 2019* (the Regulations) prescribe that charges can be levied in respect of a request for access to documents. These charges are set out by the Regulations and are for search and retrieval of documents and decision-making.

I am an authorised decision maker under section 23 of the FOI Act, and I have decided that you are liable to pay a charge in respect of the processing of your request. My preliminary assessment of the charge is \$365.00.

Search and retrieval – \$15 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• search of relevant ABS holdings</li> <li>• conversion of documents into a releasable format</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours spent in search and retrieval of documents: 15 hours	\$225.00
Decision-making ( <b>after</b> deducting the first five hours which are free of charge) – \$20 per hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time spent by an agency preparing either a schedule of documents or a recommendation for the authorised decision maker</li> <li>• examination of relevant pages for decision making (includes exempted pages and pages released with redactions)</li> <li>• consultation with other parties</li> <li>• redacting exempt material</li> </ul> Estimated number of hours required: 7 hours (after the first five hours)	\$140.00
<b>TOTAL CHARGE</b>	<b>\$365.00</b>

The charges set out in the above table are determined by the Regulations and reflect the work involved in processing this request.

The charges are not indicative of the level of access that may be granted to the documents sought.

Some documents in scope of your request may be subject to exemptions under the FOI Act, which may result in the ABS refusing you access to some of the documents.

The Regulations prescribe that where a charge is imposed and the charge exceeds \$100.00, a deposit of up to 25 per cent of the estimated charges may be sought. Based on the preliminary estimate of charges for your request, which is \$365.00, you will be required to pay a deposit of \$92.00 before work on your request commences.

Within 30 days of receipt of this notice you are required to either:

- pay a deposit with the remainder to be paid prior to receipt of documentation.
- pay the charge.
- contend the charge; or
- withdraw your request.

If you fail to notify the ABS in a manner described above within 30 days of receipt of this notice, it will be taken that you have withdrawn your request.

Options for payment are provided at **S22**.

You may contend that the charge has been wrongly assessed or should be reduced or not imposed (see **S22**). In deciding whether to reduce or not to impose a charge, I have discretion to consider reduction or remission of charges for any reason, including the following reasons:

- the payment of the fee or a part of the fee would cause financial hardship to the applicant or person on whose behalf the application was made; or
- access is in the general public interest or in the interest of a substantial section of the public.

If you wish to contend the charges, you should give full reasons for doing so.

In accordance with section 31 of the FOI Act, the 30-day limit for processing your request is suspended from the date of this notice. It resumes on either the day you pay the charge (in full or the required deposit) or the day on which this agency decides not to impose a charge.

Consistent with the FOI Act, the ABS publishes all documents disclosed in response to FOI requests (other than personal or business information that would be unreasonable to publish) on the ABS website.

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact the ABS FOI Contact Officer at [freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au](mailto:freedomofinformation@abs.gov.au).

Yours sincerely,



Michael Meagher  
Program Manager  
Risk, Planning and Policy Branch  
Australian Bureau of Statistics  
08/07/2022

S22

Released under FOIA Act

S22

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S22

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