

File Ref: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Education Directorate (the Directorate) on 7 July 2022 in which you sought access to:

1. *Copies of emails / reports that show:*
 - a. *Why students in the ACT are not feeling safe at school*
 - b. *Why students in the ACT do not feel the school takes their concerns seriously*
 - c. *Why students in the ACT feel their school does not manage student behaviour well*
2. *Copies of reports showing the Directorate's plan to address these statistics?*
3. *Copies of reports showing the link between the Directorate's Positive Behaviour Learning policy and the underlying causes of students in the ACT not feeling safe at school and school management of student behaviour*

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

The Education Directorate was required to provide a decision on your access application by 4 August 2022.

Searches have been conducted based on the wording of your request as stated above, and it has been identified that the Directorate does not hold records relevant to your request. Therefore, in line with sections 35(1)(b) and 53 of the Act, my decision is that the Directorate does not hold the information you are seeking.

I am advised that you have contacted the Directorate via the online contact form and are seeking a response to a number of questions that are related to these topics. I understand that a response is being compiled.

It may be of assistance to your enquiries to be aware of the following publicly available documents:

- Brief to the Minister for the 2020-2021 annual reports hearings held in February 2022 re bullying and violence in schools – copy attached for your convenience
- Schools Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) final report
https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1437776/Schools-Education-Advisory-Committee-Safe-and-Supportive-Schools-Final-Report,-dated-August-2019.PDF
- Government response to Standing Committee Inquiry
https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/1437774/Education,-Employment-and-Youth-Affairs-Standing-Committee-Report-6-Management-and-Minimisation-of-Bullying-and-Violence-in-ACT-Schools-Government-response,-dated-October-2019.PDF
- Government response to SEAC report
https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1437777/Schools-Education-Advisory-Committee-Safe-and-Supportive-Schools-Government-response,-dated-October-2019.PDF

Online publishing – disclosure log

Under section 28 of the Act, the Directorate maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Information about FOI requests, decision and records released in response to access applications is published in the Directorate’s disclosure log between three and 10 working days after a decision on access has been provided to the applicant. The applicant’s personal information is not published.

You may view the Directorate’s disclosure log at
https://www.education.act.gov.au/about-us/freedom_of_information/disclosure-log.

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 a decision was made, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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 at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

If you have any queries concerning the Directorate's processing of your request, or would like further information, please contact the Directorate's FOI team on 02 6205 0720 or email EducationFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Paula Murray
Information Officer

4 August 2022