

**2025**

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY**

**Community Services Directorate Notice provided to the Ombudsman – FOI-CYF-22/41  
- pursuant to section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act 2016**

**Presented by  
Michael Pettersson MLA  
Minister for Children, Youth and Families  
March 2025**

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**ACT**

Government

Community Services

Mr Iain Anderson

ACT Ombudsman

GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Anderson

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – DECISION NOT MADE IN TIME**

**Ref:** FOI-CYF-22/41

I refer to an access application received by the Community Services Directorate (the Directorate) made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the FOI Act), in which the applicant sought the following information:

*“I would like all of my Care and protection files, until I reached the age of 18, held by the Community Services Directorate.  
I consent to any health records found in the records being released under the Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997 alongside the other information requested.”*

The scope of this access application relates to personal affairs, as such the applicant’s name has therefore not been provided due to privacy concerns, however, can be discussed with the Ombudsman’s Office if required.

I am writing in accordance with section 39 (1) (c) of the FOI Act, to inform you that a decision regarding the release of requested information for the abovementioned application, was not made in the time allowed under section 40.

### **Background**

This application was received by the directorate on 25 July 2022 and became valid on 26 July 2022 following provision of the applicants ID.

On 28 July 2022, the directorate requested an extension of time under section 41 of the FOI Act. The Applicant did not object to this request, making the due date of this application 25 July 2023.

On 3 May 2023, a Freedom of Information Officer contacted [REDACTED] in relation to her request to the outcome was a revised scope as follows;

*"I would like to request records held on my ACT Care and Protection Services files, for the period of when I was born to the age of 6 years, inclusive, excluding health records."*

On 5 July 2023, the directorate lodged an application for an extension of time under section 42 of the FOI Act with your office. The directorate was unable to have this application allocated for processing prior to your decision on this request being finalised. On this occasion you decided not to grant the extension of time.

Despite the time to decide having expired, the Directorate will continue to deal with the application.

The Directorate advised the applicant of the deemed refusal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'C Rule', with a stylized, cursive script.

Catherine Rule  
Director-General  
Community Services Directorate  
27 September 2023