

Our reference: **CHSFOI24-25.22**

Dear [REDACTED],

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act), received by Canberra Health Services (the Directorate) on Wednesday 5 March 2025, and an agreed scope revision with CMTEDD received on **Wednesday 12 March 2025**.

This application requested access to:

'All digital communications between directorate senior executives, directorate liaison officers or ministerial liaison unit staff/ministerial and government relations staff (where applicable) and any ACT Minister and/or their staff. This request is for advice sent and received during the period covered by caretaker conventions in 2024, that being between 13/09/2024 and 06/11/2024 inclusive.*

Excluded information: Matters relating to individual constituent queries (including businesses and other members of the public), material referred on from MLAs, administrative material (eg, room bookings, HR and corporate support), and handwritten conversation notes.

**Senior Executives means any staff employed at the Senior Executive Service level.'*

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Directorate under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. On 16 June 2025, I wrote to you regarding access to 34 documents identified as in scope of your application.

Following this decision, two additional documents has been identified as within scope of your application. In accordance with section 36 of the Act, the Directorate may make a further decision under section 35 of the Act in relation to this additional government information. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at Attachment A to this decision letter

Decisions

I have decided to:

- grant full access to one document; and
- grant partial access to one document.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as Attachment B to this letter.

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

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request; and

- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Full Access

I have decided to grant full access to the document at reference 2.

Partial Access

I have decided to grant partial access to the documents at reference 1. This document contains redactions that have been made to personal information, being mobile numbers of ACT-Government employees.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability; and
- Schedule 2, 2.1 (a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2, 2.2 (a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

On balance, the factors favouring disclosure did not outweigh the factor favouring non-disclosure as the redacted information under the test set out in section 17 of the Act. Therefore, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, the Directorate maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision.

Please be aware that no personal information will be included in the published information all other information will be published on <https://www.act.gov.au/open/foi-disclosure-logs/act-health-directorate-and-canberra-health-services-disclosure-logs>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI 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 that my decision is published on the Directorate's disclosure log, 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
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.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
Allara House
15 Constitution Avenue
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Nicole Stevenson
Senior Director
Office of the Chief Executive Officer
Canberra Health Services

26 September 2025

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access. Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately. Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

APPLICANT NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	FILE NUMBER
	<i>All digital communications between directorate senior executives*, directorate liaison officers or ministerial liaison unit staff/ministerial and government relations staff (where applicable) and any ACT Minister and/or their staff. This request is for advice sent and received during the period covered by caretaker conventions in 2024, that being between 13/09/2024 and 06/11/2024 inclusive.</i> <i>Excluded information: Matters relating to individual constituent queries (including businesses and other members of the public), material referred on from MLAs, administrative material (eg, room bookings, HR and corporate support), and handwritten conversation notes.</i> <i>*Senior Executives means any staff employed at the Senior Executive Service level.</i>	CHSFOI24-25.22

Ref Number	Page Number	Description	Date	Status Decision	Factor	Open Access release status
1.	1	Email - MCHS24-816 - Caveat Brief	27 September 2024	Partial Release	Schedule 2.2 (a)(ii) Privacy	YES
2.	2 - 3	MCHS24 816 - Caveat Brief - Orthopaedic Prevocational Doctor Accreditation at the Canberra Hospital	27 September 2024	Full Release		YES
Total Number of Documents						
2						

From: Murray, Ryan
Sent: Friday, 27 September 2024 4:59 PM
To: Bransgrove, Meagen
Cc: CHS DLO
Subject: MCHS24-816 - Caveat Brief

Hi Meg,

Caveat brief for you at the link below.

<I:\Stephen-Smith\DLO\01. RSS - digital signing\00. Meg docs for review\MCHS24-816 - Caveat Brief>

Thanks,

Ryan Murray | Director - Government Relations
Phone: 02 5124 2452 | Mobile: [REDACTED] | Email: ryan.murray@act.gov.au
Strategy and Governance | Canberra Health Services | ACT Government
Yamba Drive, Garran, ACT 2605 | canberrahealthservices.act.gov.au



‘Creating exceptional health care together.’

Canberra Health Services acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the ACT and recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and contribution to the life of this region.



Caveat Brief | Canberra Health Services

OFFICIAL Sensitive

TRIM Ref: MCHS24/816

To:	Minister for Health
Date:	27 September 2024
From:	Dave Pepper, Chief Executive Officer
Subject:	Orthopaedic Prevocational Doctor Accreditation

1. The Canberra Region Medical Education Council (CRMEC) is responsible for accreditation of prevocational medical training programs in the ACT and the rural/regional training network.
2. The prevocational medical work force at the Canberra Hospital consists of Intern medical officers and Resident Medical Officers (RMOs).
3. The CRMEC undertook an accreditation compliance visit at the Canberra Hospital in early 2023.
4. Following this visit, areas for improvement were identified in some specialties, including the Orthopaedic surgery rotation. The CRMEC raises improvements as a proviso to accreditation, which are to be reported on at various intervals to demonstrate improvement.
5. Throughout 2023-24 clinical year the Orthopaedic unit has been working to improve the training experience and has made several positive changes to the Orthopaedic rotation for prevocational doctors.
6. In August and September 2024, proviso updates were provided to the CRMEC relating to specific training required for Orthopaedic registrars as supervisors' prevocational doctors, and an evaluation of all changes made to the Orthopaedic term.
7. As part of the evaluation, the prevocational doctors in the Orthopaedic term were surveyed on their experience. Despite there being positive themes in the survey about the Orthopaedic rotation, the survey feedback indicated that half the prevocational doctors were not provided adequate supervision on the ward.
8. The CRMEC responded to the August and September updates, expressing significant concern about safety of prevocational doctors and Orthopaedic patients, suggesting there was a lack of meaningful progress to address the identified issues relating to supervision and education, as well as required training of the Orthopaedic registrars.

9. CRMEC withdrew accreditation for the prevocational rotation in Orthopaedic surgery, effective 28 October 2024.
10. CHS prevocational doctors can still access orthopaedic training at North Canberra Hospital, and regional sites in Bega and Goulburn, NSW.
11. The Orthopaedic Unit also remains accredited for registrar specialty training.
12. A meeting is scheduled on 27 September 2024, with Emeritus Professor Nicholas Glasgow and key stakeholders from the Division of Surgery and Office of the Executive Director of Medical Services.
13. Communication or changes to the allocation of any Orthopaedic JMO has not occurred until the outcome of the meeting with Professor Glasgow is known.

Noted/Please Discuss

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA
Minister for Health

CHS Executive: Dr Suzanne Smallbane

Action Officer: Melanie Taylor