



OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Our Ref: 26-2073
Telephone: 8207 5555



Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

"1. The Commissioner's Response Letter

A copy of the written response issued by the Commissioner of Police (Grant Stevens APM) to the RLSA in relation to their letter dated 30 January 2025.

2. Any Attachments

Any documents, briefing notes, or attachments that were included with the Commissioner's response.

3. Internal Communications

Any internal SAPOL communications relating specifically to the preparation, drafting, approval, or sending of the Commissioner's response, including:

- Emails*
- Drafts*
- Internal memos*
- Briefing notes*
- File notes*

This request is limited only to documents directly relating to the Commissioner's response to the RLSA letter."

Under the FOI Act, agencies are required to respond to FOI requests within 30 days. As South Australia Police (SAPOL) did not respond within this statutory timeframe, your application is deemed to have been refused. Despite this, I have determined to proceed with processing your request as though the response was provided within the required period.

South Australia Police has located documents that fall within the scope of your request. The documents are numbered and described in the following schedule. The schedule contains the details of the determination in compliance with section 23 of the FOI Act. Note the grounds on which access has been refused, including the reasons which are contained in the schedule.



SA POLICE - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION UNIT SCHEDULE			
No.	Document Description	Status	Clauses
1	Emails - Handling of Assistance Dogs	Partial Release	Clauses: 6(1) 16(1)(a) (iv) & 16(1)(b)
2	Email - RSLSA Dog Handling Forwarding Minute instruction		
3	PD128 RSLSA Dog Handling Forwarding Minute	Full Release	
4	Emails - Handling of Assistance Dogs	Partial Release	6(1) 16(1)(a) (iv) & 16(1)(b)
5	Emails – Ministerial Liaison Unit and SAPOL HR Executive Requests		
6	Draft Commissioners Briefing Paper RSLSA draft	Partial Release	6(1)
7	Draft SAPOL letter to RSLSA	Partial Release	16(1)(a) (iv) & 16(1)(b)
8	Email Correspondence from Commissioner of Police Grant Stevens APM LEM to RSLSA	Partial Release	6(1) 16(1)(a) (iv) & 16(1)(b)
9	Correspondence from Commissioner of Police Grant Stevens APM LEM Signed Letter to Ms Burgess RSLSA	Partial Release	16(1)(a) (iv) & 16(1)(b)

CLAUSES FOR REFUSAL

Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead).”

A portion of the redacted text relates to the personal affairs of third parties other than yourself. The information relates to details such as telephone numbers and email addresses. I am of the view that disclosure of such information is unreasonable given the need to protect the person’s privacy and personal information.

Clause 16(1)(a)(iv) & 16(1)(b) of Schedule 1 of the FOI Act which states:

“A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to have a substantial adverse effect on the effective performance by an agency of the agency’s functions; and would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

A portion of the redacted text contains direct contact details of specific senior agency’s personnel. SAPOL has considered the position from the perspective of the agency and determine that if these contact details were released to the general public, it is likely that

these details would be used to report incidents or try to communicate directly with these personnel. This would likely impair their ability to perform their role effectively.

I am of the view disclosure of the redacted content would be against the public interest, given that disclosure could reasonably be expected to impede the flow of information to police; and have a substantial adverse effect on the ability for SAPOL to conduct daily procedures at an administrative level, which in turn would affect the agency to proactively perform in its duties. In my view the public would be content to keep this information private and utilise the standard public facing methods of general communication for the agency.

Your rights to review

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of internal review in accordance with section 29(1) of the FOI Act by completing a PD362 Application for Internal Review form, which can be downloaded from <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/services-and-events/freedom-of-information> or available upon request at your nearest police station. Alternatively, an application may be made in writing to the SAPOL Freedom of Information Unit. This application must be lodged within 30 (calendar) days after you receive this letter. The fee of \$43.30 (if applicable) can be paid in person at any South Australian police station or by obtaining a money order.

Disclosure Log

A disclosure log is published on the SAPOL website in accordance with Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045. Disclosure logs for non-personal information released through Freedom of Information list documents that have been disclosed in response to requests for access to non-personal information pursuant to the FOI Act. The disclosure log can be found at <https://www.police.sa.gov.au/about-us/proactive-disclosure>.

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 12 April 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Sergeant Christian Ainley
Freedom of Information Unit
(Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

3 March 2026