

Our reference: CIT FOI 2026–004

By email: [REDACTED]

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION – CIT FOI 2026-004

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your access application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the FOI Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) and partially accepted by the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) on 4 March 2026.

In your application, as clarified following discussions with CMTEDD on 3 March 2026, you requested access to statistical information relating to:

- the number of ACT Public Service (ACTPS) personnel who are not attending their workplace and are not on an entitled period of leave (excluding staff working from home); and
- the number of employees stood down with pay, categorised by the following duration periods:
 - less than 6 months
 - 6 to 12 months
 - more than 12 months

You confirmed that:

- you are not seeking personal information, classifications, or reasons for any stand down; and
- the information is sought with an effective date of 28 February 2026.

CIT advised in its acknowledgement letter dated 10 March 2026 that it holds only partial information relevant to your request, noting that your request relates to the ACT Public Service as a whole.

Authority

I am a Senior Executive officer appointed as a CIT Information Officer to make decisions about access to government information, in accordance with Section 18 of the FOI Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with Section 40 of the FOI Act, CIT is required to provide a decision on your access application within working 30 days. This decision has been made within the statutory timeframe.

Document Search and Material Considered

Thorough searches for records held by CIT were undertaken to identify and locate any documents within the scope of your request.

Decision

I have decided to release in full the information held by CIT that falls within the scope of your request.

As of 28 February 2026, CIT holds the following information:

- **Number of employees not attending the CIT workplace and not on an entitled period of leave (excluding staff working from home):**

Two (2) employees

- **Number of employees stood down with pay:**
Nil (0).

CIT does not hold any further information within the scope of your request.

Statement of Reasons

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

- Your original access application.
- The FOI Act.
- The ACT Ombudsman FOI Guidelines
- The documents which fall within the scope of your request.

As a decision maker I am required to decide if release of information found to be within the scope of your request are within the public interest. Schedule 1 of the FOI Act provides categories of information where release is not considered to be in the public interest. On reviewing the information within the scope of your request, I do not consider that any of this information fall within the categories prescribed under Schedule 1 of the FOI Act.

As I am not satisfied that any of the information within the scope of your request are exempted from release in accordance with Schedule 1 of the FOI Act, I am required to consider the factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure as found in Schedule 2.

Section 17(1) of the FOI Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. Taking into consideration the information requested, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the 'public interest'.

Factors favouring disclosure:

I consider that the following factors favouring disclosure apply in relation to these documents.

- promote open discussion and accountability (section 2.1 (a)(i).
- reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision (section 2.1(a)(viii).
- ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds 2.1(iv)

I consider the information requested would, on balance, support the factors favouring disclosure described as the release of this information promotes accountability.

Factors favouring non-disclosure:

I have not identified any factors favouring non-disclosure in relation to these documents.

Consideration of Factors

Taking into account the factors favouring disclosure and having undertaken the test under section 17 of the Act I consider that all of the information you have requested should be released to you in full.

Charges

You have not been charged for this request.

Disclosure Log

Section 28 of the FOI Act requires publication of access applications and any information subsequently released on CIT's disclosure log at:

[https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom of information/disclosure log](https://cit.edu.au/about/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log).

Review Rights

You may apply to the ACT Ombudsman to review my decision under Section 73 of the FOI Act. An application for review must be made in writing within working 20 days of the date of my decision.

You may submit a request for review of my decision to the ACT Ombudsman by writing in one of the following ways:

Email (preferred): actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Post: The ACT Ombudsman

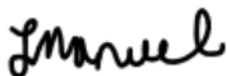
GPO Box 442

CANBERRA ACT 2601

More information about ACT Ombudsman review is available on the ACT Ombudsman website at:

<http://www.ombudsman.act.gov.au/improving-the-act/freedom-of-information>.

Yours sincerely



Tania Manuel
Executive Branch Manager, Audit, Policy and Governance
Canberra Institute of Technology

24 March 2026