

From: [Vice-Chancellor EA](#)
To: executiveassistant@oaic.gov.au
Bcc: [REDACTED] s 47F - Public Interest Conditional Exemptions - Personal Privacy
Subject: Correspondence from ANU Interim Vice-Chancellor
Date: Thursday, 11 June 2026 5:10:00 PM
Attachments: [3. Letter June 2026 OAIC ANU FOI Action Plan status update.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Dear Commissioner,

Please find attached correspondence from the Interim Vice-Chancellor of The Australian National University, Professor Rebekah Brown.

Kindly,

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Acting Executive Assistant to Interim Vice-Chancellor

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I live and work on unceded Ngunnawal and Ngambri lands. I acknowledge the First Nations people of this continent and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.



11 June 2026
Ms. Alice Linacre PSM
Australian Freedom of Information Commissioner
Office of the Australian Information Commissioner

Re: ANU FOI Action Plan

Dear Commissioner,

On 27 November 2025, I wrote to you regarding the Australian National University's (the University) Freedom of Information (FOI) Action Plan and the measures undertaken to address the significant increase in FOI requests received in 2025.

In your letter dated 16 December 2025, you requested that the University provide an update on progress and outcomes achieved under the FOI Action Plan, including performance against statutory timeframes, by 15 June 2026.

Volume of Requests

The University has implemented a range of measures and continues to explore additional options to increase processing capacity. However, demand continues to exceed available resources. Since the November 2025 update, both the volume and complexity of requests have increased at an unprecedented rate.

As of 2 June 2026 we have received 191 FOI requests, which is a 70.5% increase on the 112 cases we had at the same time in 2025.

Performance Against Statutory Timeframes

Of the 191 cases, we have finalised 59, in addition to 17 outstanding matters from 2025. Of the matters finalised in 2026, 52.5% were completed within the statutory 30-day timeframe.

As of 2 June 2026, 125 remain open, of which 63.2% are deemed decisions. The University continues to process all requests in accordance with the FOI Act and OAIC FOI Guidelines.

Actions Taken

Since November 2025, the University has taken several steps to increase processing capacity and efficiency, including:

- Implementation of all actions identified in the 2025 FOI Action Plan;
- onboarding two permanent staff members within the Information Governance team;
- implementing a case management system to improve matter tracking, enhance processing efficiency, and introduce automation;
- engaging with the FOI Commissioner and OAIC staff to provide updates on processing status and to inform prioritisation of resources;
- liaising with other Commonwealth agencies to seek secondment opportunities to supplement resourcing; and

- engaging labour hire firms to provide surge capacity to address the backlog of overdue requests.

The University remains committed to meeting its obligations under the FOI Act and will continue to implement further measures throughout 2026 to improve processing timeliness.

Yours sincerely,

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Professor Rebekah Brown FASSA
Interim Vice-Chancellor & President
Australian National University