

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your correspondence of 1 May 2025 regarding FOI2025-008. I acknowledge the Department's position that the requested information is not held in existing documentary form. However, I wish to proceed with my application and request a formal notice of decision under Section 26 of the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA), as this absence of records is itself a matter of significant public concern and policy relevance.

Below is a formal public statement I am concurrently releasing, along with supporting documents, to provide full context for my application and the broader systemic issue it reveals:

Public Statement: The Structural Absence of Accountability in WA's Animal Welfare Enforcement

Over the past decade, the Western Australian government has significantly expanded the legal powers of Designated Inspectors (DIs) under the Animal Welfare Act 2002, while systematically withdrawing public visibility over how these powers are used. My FOI request—submitted in good faith to access non-sensitive regulatory statistics and reports—has been met not with data, but with an official confirmation that no documents exist to account for:

- The number and nature of inspections by DIs since 2022;
- The outcomes of those inspections, including non-compliances or enforcement actions;
- Any internal review or audit of DI resourcing, capacity, or effectiveness.

This information vacuum is not a trivial technicality—it constitutes an institutional opacity that contradicts the very reforms the WA government has claimed to embrace.

Key Timeline of Legal and Political Commitments vs Evidentiary Silence

The timeline below is substantiated by official government documents submitted with this email.

Year	Event	Stated Policy Outcome	Actual Information Availability
2002	Animal Welfare Act enacted	Baseline statutory framework	DI activities not systematically reported
2015	Independent statutory review (Easton Review)	Called for consistent enforcement and transparency	DPIRD accepts need for reform AWA_REVIEW_2020_FINAL_23042021 (00000002).PDF
2019	Public confrontations between farmers and animal advocates	Government pledges stronger enforcement mechanisms	No DI data released
2020	Independent Review Panel report	Recommends DI training, auditing, oversight AWA_REVIEW_2020_FINAL_23042021 (00000002).PDF	DPIRD accepts recommendations AWA REVIEW GOVERNMENT RESPONSE - FINAL VERSION_0.PDF
2022	Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) re-established	Advises Minister on DI competence and systemic oversight TERMS OF REFERENCE AWAC WA.PDF	No AWAC outputs published
2023	Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Act passed	Grants DIs right to enter high-risk facilities without consent FAQ - ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRESPASS LEGISLATION - CHANGES TO ANIMAL WELFARE ACT.PDF	No inspection records or outcomes published
2023–2024	DPIRD annual reports released	Contain detailed stats on bees, cotton, fruit flies, fisheries DPIRD_ANNUAL_REPORT_2023-24.PDF	Zero mention of DI inspections or compliance
2025	DPIRD states under FOI that no documents exist	Public learns that no system exists to track DI regulatory activity	Institutional failure officially acknowledged

Additional Note:
Due to email attachment size limitations, two key supporting documents—the DPIRD Annual Report 2023–24 and thePrimary Industries Plan 2020–24—are not attached directly. However, both documents are publicly available for download via the DPIRD official website or WA Government publications portal.

DPIRD Annual Report 2023–24
https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-10/dpird_annual_report_2023-24.pdf

Primary Industries Plan 2020–24
<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2020-12/Primary-Industries-Plan-2020-24.pdf>

Implications

The core issue is not whether my FOI request “resembles a question” instead of a file number—it is that the **regulatory infrastructure empowered to oversee some of the most ethically and environmentally contentious industries in WA has no documentary accountability.**

This is not a failure of administration. It is a policy choice.

When inspectors are granted extraordinary powers—including entry without consent or notice—yet no inspection logs, summaries, or audits are publicly reported or even internally compiled, **the result is not regulatory strength—it is legal opacity and public exclusion.**

Requested Action

I formally request that DPIRD proceed with a Section 26 refusal in writing. This document will serve as a formal acknowledgement that:

- No inspection summary reports exist for designated inspectors under DPIRD from 2022–2025;
- No audit, review or internal evaluation exists regarding the training, capacity or performance of designated inspectors;
- No central register or summary exists of non-compliance incidents or enforcement outcomes.

This refusal itself is now a vital piece of the public record.

I thank you for your assistance and will consider subsequent actions, including media engagement and further systemic review, based on the outcome of this request.

Sincerely,
Hanyu Liu
helloluna520@gmail.com
8 May 2025

----- Original -----
From: FOI <FOI@dpird.wa.gov.au>
Date: Thu, May 8, 2025 10:12 AM
To: Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>
Cc: FOI <FOI@dpird.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Re: RE: FOI2025-008 - Application Update

OFFICIAL

Good morning Hanyu

I just wanted to follow up on the email I sent to you on 1 May 2025 regarding your FOI application FOI2025-008.

Can you advise how you would like to proceed with your application?

Kind regards

Clare Kuzimski | Information Release and Privacy Officer
Enterprise Information Management
Information Services | Corporate Services
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Onsite: Mon, Weds and Fri Remote: Tues and Thurs

From: FOI <FOI@dpird.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Thursday, 1 May 2025 11:50 AM
To: Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>
Cc: FOI <FOI@dpird.wa.gov.au>
Subject: FOI2025-008 - Application Update

OFFICIAL

Good morning Hanyu

I refer to your access application request under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* - FOI reference **FOI2025-008** - made to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) regarding the activities of Designated Inspectors (DI's) in relation to animal welfare enforcement in Western Australia.

The FOI Act gives the general public the right to access documents, not to address questions. It is a requirement of the applicant to identify the documents you are seeking access too. However, we have liaised with DPIRD's Operations and Compliance Directorate to make enquiries in regard to your requested information.

The Operations and Compliance Directorate have provided the following information to address your request.

- The number of inspections conducted by Designated Inspectors between 1 January 2022 and 5 April 2025, or the most recent available date, including the date and type of facility inspected (e.g., piggery, poultry farm, abattoir).***
 - There is not an existing document held by DPIRD that provides the requested information. Over the time period specified, DPIRD has undertaken a number of inspections of intensive production places. Inspectors already have powers to enter a property with the owners' permission or if the inspector suspected an offence has been or is being committed. If an inspector arrives at a property and requests access, and is granted access, the power given under the authority of a designated inspector is not required.
- Summary of inspection outcomes for the above period, including the number and nature of non-compliance incidents, severity assessments, and enforcement actions taken (e.g., warnings, infringement notices, or prosecutions).***
 - There is not an existing document held by DPIRD that provides a summary of inspection outcomes for the requested information.
- Any internal evaluations, reports or audits conducted regarding the capacity, number, training, or resource allocation of Designated Inspectors during this period.***
 - There has been no internal evaluations, reports or audits conducted for the requested information by DPIRD.

In light of the above responses if you would like to withdraw your application, we will be able to arrange a \$30 refund for your application fee.

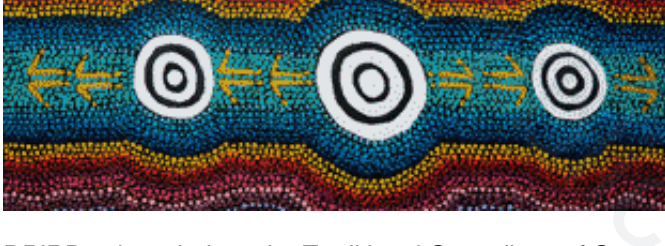
If you would like to continue with your application then under section 26 of the FOI Act, access would be refused as the information does not exist.

Alternatively, if you would like to speak with a member of the Operations and Compliance Directorate for some more information on the Designated Inspectors, you can contact Noel Chambers – Director Regional Compliance South, on [9892 8492](tel:98928492) or noel.chambers@dpird.wa.gov.au.

Please confirm how you would like to proceed by close of business on Thursday 8 May 2025. If you need more time, please let us know.

Kind regards

Clare Kuzimski | Information Release and Privacy Officer
Enterprise Information Management
Information Services | Corporate Services
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
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• [Chat or call me in Teams!](#)
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DPIRD acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Aboriginal people of the many lands that we work on and their language groups throughout Western Australia and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waters.

We respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of our regions and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Artwork: "Kangaroos going to the Waterhole" by Willarra Barker.

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