

# RE: Request for External Review – FOI2025-008 (DPIRD)

Dear Mr Liu

Your email of 11 June 2025 has been forwarded to me to respond.

You do not appear to have provided a copy of the internal review decision of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (**the agency**). In order to make a valid application for external review you are required to provide a copy of the agency's internal review decision. Can you please, therefore, provide a copy of the internal review decision to me, so that your request can be assessed further.

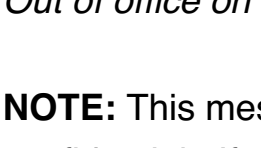
If you have not sought internal review of the agency's decision, you should do so within 30 days of receiving the agency's notice of decision.

Kind regards

## Kathy Clark I Manager External Review

Office of the Information Commissioner I Albert Facey House, 469 Wellington Street, PERTH WA 6000

T: (08) 6551-7888 I E: [kathy.clark@oic.wa.gov.au](mailto:kathy.clark@oic.wa.gov.au) I W: [oic.wa.gov.au](http://oic.wa.gov.au)



**Office of the Information Commissioner**

*Celebrating 30 years of Freedom of Information in Western Australia - 1993 to 2023*

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**From:** Hanyu Liu <[helloluna520@gmail.com](mailto:helloluna520@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 June 2025 1:22 AM

**To:** Info OIC <[Info.OIC@oic.wa.gov.au](mailto:Info.OIC@oic.wa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Request for External Review – FOI2025-008 (DPIRD)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [helloluna520@gmail.com](mailto:helloluna520@gmail.com).

[Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Information Commissioner,

I am writing to formally request an external review of the decision issued by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) regarding my Freedom of Information application, reference number FOI2025-008.

### ◆ Background

This application was lodged on 7 April 2025 and sought access to regulatory records relating to Designated Inspectors (DIs) under the WA Animal Welfare Act 2002, specifically for the period 2022 to 2025. The request covered:

1. The number and type of inspections conducted by DIs;
2. Outcomes of such inspections, including non-compliance incidents and enforcement actions;
3. Internal evaluations, reviews, or audits concerning DI capacity and resource allocation.

DPIRD's formal Section 26 notice of decision was issued on 6 June 2025, stating that no documents exist responsive to any part of the request, with the exception of one spreadsheet that contains no inspection outcomes or dates.

### ◆ Grounds for Review

I believe this decision warrants external review on the following grounds:

- The Section 26 notice appears to have been issued despite the existence of clear statutory responsibilities and administrative duties that strongly imply such documents should exist as standard regulatory records;
- The response lacks sufficient detail and transparency to justify the absence of fundamental documentation (inspection summaries, compliance incidents, internal evaluations) covering more than three years of regulatory activities;
- It remains unclear whether DPIRD has conducted adequate searches or made sufficient internal inquiries before concluding the absence of responsive documents, potentially representing a procedural deficiency under the FOI Act.

Given the significant public interest in transparent governance and accountability of animal welfare enforcement—particularly given the extensive powers of DIs (including powers of entry without consent)—an external review by your office is crucial to ensure compliance with FOI obligations and uphold transparency standards.

I respectfully request the OIC to verify DPIRD's compliance with FOI Act obligations, particularly regarding the adequacy of their search procedures, and to review the appropriateness of the Section 26 determination.

### ◆ Public Record and Supporting Documentation

All correspondence, the Section 26 notice, and the released document (Document A14130553) have been compiled and published at the following public link:

 <https://unseenbeings.org>

This site serves as a structured public archive designed to enhance transparency and oversight of animal welfare enforcement in WA.

### ◆ Applicant Details

Full name: Hanyu Liu

Email: [helloluna520@gmail.com](mailto:helloluna520@gmail.com)

Address: Available upon request

Date of decision: 10 June 2025

Agency: Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

FOI Ref: FOI2025-008

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available to provide additional information or clarification as required.

Kind regards,

Hanyu Liu

[helloluna520@gmail.com](mailto:helloluna520@gmail.com)