

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CASE NOTES

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### **Request for waiver of fees** *Information Act s.156(6)*

The Complainant had applied to a public sector organisation for a waiver of fees in relation to access to documents that he sought to undertake a research project. The organisation, in dealing with the application for fee waiver as a threshold matter prior to processing the FOI request, refused to waive the fees.

The Complainant provided detailed reasons as to why he felt that the waiver should be granted having regard to the objects of the Act, not on the grounds of impecuniosity or indigence.

The Office noted that the organisation had a policy in place to provide information for research purposes to students and others free of charge. The Acting Commissioner found the organisation's policy of providing information free of charge for research was appropriate and refused to waive the FOI fees payable.