

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 490-493**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

490. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
491. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
492. How many FOI requests has the department/agency received for this financial year to date?
- a. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
493. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
- a. If so, how many and why?
- b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
- l. If so, how many and why?

**Answer:**

490. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner issued revised the FOI Guidelines in March 2013. We have not sought any external advice on FOI in the period.
491. We do not keep those figures.
492. The total number of applications received as 251.
- a. Denied = 65  
Granted = 35  
Partially Granted = 47
493. 2 requests were processed outside the statutory response time.
- a. In relation to one matter, a significant portion of the processing time occurred over the Christmas/New Year shutdown, which contributed to a delayed response. The application was determined to be invalid. In relation to the other request, the action officer was not available to comment on the reason for the delay at the time of providing this response. Our records that documents were released in part to the applicant within the 31-60 day time range.
- b. No.

*Please note: we have answered these questions for the 12/13 FY (even though the questions were put as at 17 June).*