

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0055_14

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Freedom of Information

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

Answer

The Department received updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests through updated guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/freedom-of-information).

Details regarding FOI requests processed for the current financial year to date is provided in the following table.

Financial Year to Date (01 July to 31 March 2013)	Number
Requests on hand as at 1 July 2012 ¹	25
Total requests received	247
Total number of requests	272
Decisions on Access Made	
Full release	83
Partial release	35
Refused	25
Total number of decision on access made	143
Alternative Outcomes	
Withdrawn	73
Transferred	26
Requests on hand at 31 March 2013	30
Total number of alternative outcomes	129

Processing Time	
Requests processed within statutory timeframes	143
Requests in which department failed to meet statutory timeframes	0
Financials	
Cost to DEEWR (Non staff costs directly attributable to FOI – i.e. paper, postage, transport, etc.)	\$26,415

