

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0221_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - FOI requests

"Since September 7, 2013: 1. How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received? 2. Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents? 3. Of those assessed as deliberative documents: a. For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest? b. For how many has a redacted document been provided?"

Answer

1. Between 7 September 2013 and 31 May 2014, the Fair Work Ombudsman has received 48 requests for documents under the FOI Act.
2. The Fair Work Ombudsman keeps records about the situations where a document is determined to be deliberative and its disclosure is contrary to the public interest, so access is refused, either in full or in part. The agency does not keep records about when a document is determined to be deliberative and its disclosure is not contrary to the public interest and a decision is made to release the document.
3. From 7 September 2013 to 31 May 2014 the Fair Work Ombudsman has:
 - a. refused access to 31 documents on the basis that the document is deliberative and access would be contrary to the public interest¹
 - b. provided a redacted document in 32 cases.

¹ In some cases other exemptions may have been applied to these documents.