

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0330_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FOI requests - staffing resources

The following question relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

The following question relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

1. For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?"

Answer

There are no staff solely assigned to processing FOI requests.

The Department's Information Law Team (ILT) processes Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received by the Department. The ILT's other responsibilities include advising the department on FOI and privacy issues.

The ILT currently consists of seven full time staff, comprising both legal and non-legal staff ranging from APS4 (Government Lawyer) to EL2 (Principal Government Lawyer) level.

In addition, officers within relevant areas of the department also provide assistance with processing FOI requests. These officers are responsible for searching and retrieving documents, and providing advice to the ILT in relation to the relevant documents.