

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0346_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Exempt FOI requests

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

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

1. How many documents were assessed (at internal review or - if internal review was not requested - by the original decision maker) as conditionally exempt?
2. Of those, how many were:
 - a. Released in full
 - b. Released in part
 - c. Refused access on the grounds that release of the document would be contrary to the public interest
 - d. Other (please specify)

Answer

The Department of Employment is required to report quarterly statistics under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on the number of access decisions made, including the number of decisions where access was granted in full, or where access was refused in part or in full.

In addition to providing these statistics to the OAIC, the department also reports whether a particular exemption was claimed in relation to an FOI request.

To date, the department has compiled and reported statistics to OAIC for the period 18 September 2013 – 31 March 2014 (quarter 1, quarter 2 and quarter 3) including on the number of decisions where access was granted in full, or where a request has been refused in part or in full because one or more conditional exemptions were claimed. This information is provided below:

1st Quarter (18 September 2013 - 30 September 2013)

Decisions Made	
Released in full	1
Released in part	1
Exempt in full	0

2nd Quarter (1 October 2013 – 31 December 2013)

Decisions Made	
Released in full	26
Released in part	9
Exempt in full	2

3rd Quarter (1 January 2014 – 31 March 2014)

Decisions Made	
Released in full	13
Released in part	5
Exempt in full	0