

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0351_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - 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 a. Other (please specify) "

Answer

1. The Fair Work Ombudsman keeps records about the situations where a document is assessed as being conditionally exempt 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 assessed as being conditionally exempt and a decision is made to release the document.
2. From 18 September 2013 to 31 May 2014, the Fair Work Ombudsman has:
 - a. refused access to 41 documents on the basis that the document is conditionally exempt and access would be contrary to the public interest¹
 - b. provided a redacted document in 363 cases.

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