

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM1173_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWO - 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

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 is not required under the FOI Act or by the Australian Information Commissioner to keep or report records about when a document is assessed as being conditionally exempt and a decision is made to release the document.
2. Of these, from 18 September 2013 to 31 October 2014, FWO has:
 - b) provided a redacted document in 662 cases.
 - c) refused access to 62 documents on the basis that the document is conditionally exempt and access would be contrary to the public interest.¹

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