

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Group 3**

**Question No. 42**

**Senator Macdonald asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:**

CHAIR: Do you have statistics to quantify how many of the review requests are in relation to denials and how many are in relation to agreement given, but with a third party objecting?

Prof. McMillan: Yes, there are detailed statistics on all of those matters in the annual report. I do not have them at hand, but I am happy to independently draw attention to some of those statistics.

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The 2012–2013 Annual Report of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) shows that in that financial year the OAIC received 483 Information Commissioner reviews (IC reviews) of 'access refusal decisions', and 24 IC reviews of 'access grant decisions'.

IC reviews of 'access refusal decisions' are review applications lodged with the OAIC by the FOI applicant. These reviews consider, amongst other things: decisions to refuse access to a document; deferring the provision of access; a refusal to annotate or amend a record of personal information; and decisions to impose processing charges for an FOI request.

IC reviews of 'access grant decisions' are review applications lodged with the OAIC by a third party who objects to an agency releasing a document in response to an FOI request.