

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND
INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO
2011-12 Budget Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: 1

Question No: 18

Topic: Indexation Pause

Hansard Page: 2 June 2011, CA 9 and 10

Senator Fifield asked:

1. What was the statutory timeframe for responding to the FOI request related to the emails referred to in *The Sunday Telegraph* article of 29 May 2011?
2. Was the response to the FOI request late?

Answer:

1. The statutory timeframe for responding to the FOI request related to the emails referred to in *The Sunday Telegraph* article of 29 May 2011 was 30 April 2011.

2. Yes. The scope of the applicant's FOI request was settled on 15 April 2011 when she confirmed that she wanted documents since 1 July 2009 and in 2 stages with priority given to the documents for the period since 1 July 2010. The processing of the FOI request recommenced on 20 April 2011 when the applicant paid the deposit for the processing charges. The first stage of the decision was notified to the applicant on 24 May 2011. The second stage of the decision is being finalised now. During the period of the request there were unusual circumstances:

- the new FOI Information Publication Scheme commenced on 1 May 2011; and
- the timing included the 5 day Easter break.