

**Senate Standing Committee on the  
Environment, Communications and the Arts**

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio**

**Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy**

Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings Monday 20 October 2008

**Question: 37**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator Birmingham asked:**

Has the department received any advice on how to respond to freedom of information requests?

How many FOI requests has the Department received?

How many have been granted or denied?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answer:**

(i) No. The Department has not received any advice on how to respond to freedom of information requests.

(ii) and (iii) For FOI requests received by the Department in 2007-08 and the decisions on access in that year, please refer to the Department's response to question 155 from the Budget Estimates Hearings in May 2008.

Where an FOI request was not finalised in 2007-08, the Department has provided further details in Table 1 below. Information about FOI requests received by the Department from 1 July to 30 October 2008, together with details about the decisions on access, is in Table 2 below.

**Table 1 - Requests received by the Department in 2007-08 and not finalised in that financial year**

<b>Number*</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Decision on Access</b>
17	25/3/08	Taken to be withdrawn – applicant did not pay deposit
18	7/4/08	Access granted in part
20	18/4/08	Access granted in part
22	19/5/08	Taken to be withdrawn – applicant did not respond to request for clarification of scope of requests
23	23/5/08	Access refused – s.24A – documents not found or do not exist

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\* The numbers in this table correspond with the numbers in the table in the Department's response to question 155 from the Budget Estimates Hearings in May 2008.

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**Table 2 - Requests received by the Department from 1 July 2008 – 30 October 2008**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Decision on Access</b>
1	28/8/08	Still being processed
2	4/8/08	Withdrawn
3	11/9/08	Refused – s.24A – documents not found or do not exist

(iv) The Department has not issued any conclusive certificates in relation to FOI requests.