AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, .
RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Freedom of Information

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-121

1. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
4. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
5. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

ANSWER

1. The department receives information from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) through regular emails and through the OAIC govdex site. Agencies, where relevant have provided the following updated advice.

   ASQA receives regular newsletters from the OAIC which sometimes include advice on how to respond to FOI requests. ASQA has previously sought legal advice in relation to FOI, no legal advice has been sought in the reporting period.

   AIMS monitors information provided by the OAIC via regular emails. This includes updates to guidelines, recommended templates for documents used in processing FOI requests and a variety of other information on FOI policy and administration. As at the 31 January 2013, no formal advice has been received by AIMS for the 2012-13 financial year.

   The CSIRO monitors information provided by the OAIC via its Govdex forum. This includes updates to guidelines, recommended templates for documents used in processing FOI requests and a variety of other information on FOI policy and administration. As at 31 January 2013, no formal advice has been received by the CSIRO.

   The Australian Research Council (ARC) monitors information provided by the OAIC via its Govdex forum. This includes updates to guidelines, recommended templates for documents used in processing FOI requests and a variety of other information on FOI policy and administration. The ARC receives regular emails from the OAIC, which sometimes include advice on how to respond to FOI requests.

2. Costs of processing FOI requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 January 2013 is as follows:

Agency	Cost ($) (GST exclusive)
DIISRTE	288,549
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	0
ANSTO	3,972
ARC	1,176
ASQA	9,255
CSIRO	179,120
IP Australia	309,801
TEQSA	466

3.   The number of FOI requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 January 2013 is as follows:

Agency	Requests received
DIISRTE	104
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	0
ANSTO	5
ARC	10
ASQA	15
CSIRO	19
IP Australia	222
TEQSA	2

4.   The number of FOI requests denied and granted for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 January 2013 is as follows:

Agency	Denied	Granted
DIISRTE	23	52
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	0
ANSTO	1	2
ARC	0	10
ASQA	0	5
CSIRO	1	17
IP Australia	2	208
TEQSA	0	1

5.   The number of times that the department and agencies failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act and the number of outstanding requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 January 2013 is as follows:

Agency	Number of times	Number outstanding
DIISRTE	0	0
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	0
ANSTO	0	0
ARC	2	0

ASQA	0	0
CSIRO	0	1
IP Australia	0	0
TEQSA	0	0