

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 178

Topic: Freedom of Information (Treasury)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Barnett asked:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Since the 2010 Additional Estimates (8 February 2010)*

Answer:

1. Between 8 February and 30 June 2010 Treasury has received general legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor in relation to specific FOI requests.

In accordance with the FOI Guidelines, Treasury also sought and received advice from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in relation to any Cabinet documents identified in relation to FOI requests.

2. Between 8 February and 30 June 2010 Treasury has received 28 FOI requests.
3. Of the 28 requests received:
 - 1 granted full access
 - 5 granted access in part
 - 4 withdrawn by applicant
 - 1 deemed withdrawn (no response received from applicant)
 - 5 were refused (in all 5 cases no documents existed)
 - 1 transferred to another agency
 - 2 released documents outside of the FOI Act
 - 9 decision still pending.
4. Between 8 February and 30 June 2010 no conclusive certificates had been issued.