

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Freedom of Information (FOI)

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: BI-50

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice 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?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Advice and assistance has been sought on occasion from legal service providers, predominately the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), to facilitate the processing of complex or protracted FOI requests. In addition, advice in the form of guidance notes is received from the Information Commissioner, AGS FOI training, Australian Public Service FOI working group and other like meetings/workshops.
2. 287* in the period 1 October 2010 to 31 May 2011.
3. 136 granted in full, 80 granted in part, 9 denied in full, 23 withdrawn, 1 transferred and 3 released outside FOI, 6 still in progress in the period 1 October 2010 to 31 May 2011.
4. Nil

* figures include input from IP Australia, ANSTO, CSIRO and ARC. AIATSIS and AIMS provided a NIL response.