

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
20 October 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Freedom of Information

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-46

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?
5. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?
6. Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

ANSWER

1. Yes. Advice and assistance has been sought on occasion from legal service providers, predominately the Australian Government Solicitor, 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, APS FOI working group and other like meetings/workshops.
2. 14 in the period 1 June 2010 to 30 September 2010.
3. 5 in full, 3 partial, 3 denied, 1 withdrawn, and 1 released outside FOI, 1 still in progress in the period 1 June 2010 to 30 September 2010.
4. Nil.
5. Yes. The request is currently being processed.
6. Yes. Draft papers were prepared for a potential Coalition Government. All drafts were destroyed.