

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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**Question: SBT 102**

**Topic: FOI Requests**

Senator Bushby 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?

**Answer:**

1. Yes. The ATO has obtained legal advice from service providers on our Commercial and General legal services panel in relation to some FOI requests that have been received. In addition, the ATO's authorised FOI decision-makers were provided with general training on the amended FOI law by a commercial law firm, and ATO officers attended a forum conducted by the Australian Government Solicitor providing general guidance to agencies' FOI decision-makers.
2. The ATO has received 321 FOI requests for the period 1 June to 31 October 2010.
3. 161 requests were granted and 45 requests were denied for the same period (18 requests were withdrawn, one was transferred to another agency and 96 remain on hand).
4. Nil.