

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

Question: SBT 152

Topic: FOI Requests

Senator Bushby asked:

Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?

How many FOI requests has the Department received?

How many have been granted or denied?

How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

Answer:

Q1.- Has the Department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI Requests?

A1. ASIC has not received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests from the Government. However, ASIC has on occasions:

- obtained advice from external and internal lawyers; and
- utilised the services of the Australian Government Solicitor in the actioning of specific FOI requests.

ASIC also utilises the formal guidance documentation addressing the provisions of the Freedom of Information legislation, available from the public websites of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Attorney General's Department and the Australian Government Solicitor.

Q2. How many FOI requests have been received?

A2.. In the 12 months to 30 June 2010, ASIC received 94 FOI requests.

Q3. How many have been granted or denied?

A3In the 12 months to 30 June 2010:

- requests granted in full: 23;
- requests granted in part: 12;
- requests denied: 23.

These are the numbers for requests which were finalised in the 12 months to 30 June 2010. The numbers do not add to 94 as, among other things, some requests received were withdrawn and the processing of others was not completed in this period.

Q4-How many conclusive Certificates have been issued by ASIC in relation to FOI requests ?

A4.- Nil.