

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 – 21 October 2010

Question: SBT 48

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:

1. Between 1 July and 3 November 2010 Treasury has received legal advice from the Australian Government Solicitor in relation to specific FOI requests.

In accordance with the PM&C 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 and Caretaker Conventions.

2. Between 1 July and 3 November 2010 Treasury has received 34 FOI requests.

3. Of the 34 requests received:

17 granted access in part

1 withdrawn by applicant

2 deemed withdrawn (no response received from applicant)

2 were refused (no documents existed)

12 decision still pending.

4. Between 1 July and 3 November 2010 no conclusive certificates were issued. The power to issue conclusive certificates was repealed in October 2009 through the (*The Freedom of Information Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures*) Act 2009 .

