

## Senate Standing Committee on Economics

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

#### Treasury Portfolio

#### Supplementary Budget Estimates

20 October 2011

**Question No:** SBT 37

**Topic:** Freedom of information

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Bushby asked:**

Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?

**Answer:**

Yes. For some complex or voluminous freedom of information requests, the ATO receives legal advice from external legal service providers who are engaged to assist with the processing of the request.

ATO decision makers also refer to the Australian Information Commissioner's Guidelines issued under section 93A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. On 28 July 2011, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided freedom of information guidance notes to all departments - [http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance\\_notes.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm).