

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, .
RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Freedom of Information

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-144

1. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for 2011-12?
3. How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive in 2011-12?
4. How many requests were denied and how many were granted?
5. Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
6. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
7. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
8. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
9. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

ANSWER

1. The Department has not received updated advice. Agencies, where relevant have been provided the following updated advice.

IP Australia monitors information provided by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) via its Govdex forum. This includes updates to guidelines, recommended templates for documents used in processing FOI requests and a variety of other information on FOI policy and administration.

In March 2012, ANSTO received advice from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) via its Govdex forum about how the OAIC responded to a particular FOI request sent to all Australian Government agencies.

ASQA receives regular emails from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner, which sometimes include advice on how to respond to FOI requests.

2. Please refer to AI-229 and BI-183 for costs of processing FOI requests for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Costs for the period 1 June to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Cost (\$) GST exclusive
DIISRTE	27,174
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	3,013
ANSTO	40,000 (approximately)
ARC	110
ASQA	0
CSIRO	27,755
IP Australia	34,940
TEQSA	0

3. Please refer to AI-229 and BI-183 for the number of FOI requests for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Requests for the period 1 June to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Requests received
DIISRTE	10
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	1
ANSTO	0
ARC	1
ASQA	0
CSIRO	5
IP Australia	27
TEQSA	0

4. Please refer to AI-229 and BI-183 for the number of FOI requests denied and granted for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Requests for the period 1 June to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Denied	Granted
DIISRTE	2	6
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	1
ANSTO*	NA	NA
ARC	0	1
ASQA	0	0
CSIRO	0	5
IP Australia	0	20
TEQSA	0	0

* Figures for this period were included in BI-183

5. Please refer to AI-229 and BI-183 for the number of times that the department and agencies failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act and the number of outstanding requests from 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Requests for the period 1 June to 30 June 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Number of times	Number outstanding
DIISRTE	0	0
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	0
ANSTO	0	0
ARC	0	0
ASQA	0	0
CSIRO	0	0
IP Australia	0	0
TEQSA	0	0

6. Costs of processing FOI requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 October 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Cost (\$) (GST exclusive)
DIISRTE	113,840
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	0
ANSTO	3,202
ARC	1,322
ASQA	3,600
CSIRO	84,032
IP Australia	128,086
TEQSA	206

7. The number of FOI requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 October 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Requests received
DIISRTE	55
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	0
ANSTO	4
ARC	7
ASQA	4
CSIRO	11
IP Australia	124
TEQSA	1

8. The number of FOI requests denied and granted for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 October 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Denied	Granted
DIISRTE	11	21
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	0
ANSTO	1	1
ARC	0	7
ASQA	0	3 (2 of these were granted in part)
CSIRO	0	11
IP Australia	0	110
TEQSA	0	1

9. The number of times that the department and agencies failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act and the number of outstanding requests for the 2012-13 financial year as at 31 October 2012 is as follows:

Agency	Number of times	Number outstanding and why
DIISRTE	0	0
AIATSIS	0	0
AIMS	0	0
ANSTO	0	0
ARC	2	0
ASQA	0	1 (request still being processed as at 31 October 2012)
CSIRO	0	0
IP Australia	0	0
TEQSA	0	0