

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0834_13

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Freedom of Information

Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests? What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date? How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? 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

The department has received updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests through updated guidelines issued by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

Details regarding FOI requests processed for the current financial year to date is provided in the following table.

Financial Year to Date (01 July to 31 December 2012)	Number
Requests on hand as at 1 July 2012 ¹	25
Total requests received	178
Decisions on Access Made	
Full release	61
Partial release	24
Refused	14
Alternative Outcomes	
Withdrawn	55
Transferred	21
Requests on hand at 31 December 2012	28
Processing Time	
Requests processed within statutory timeframes	99
Requests in which department failed to meet statutory timeframes	0

¹ The requests on hand figure is the number of valid primary FOI requests which were received in the previous financial year but no primary access decision had been made as at the start of the financial year.

Financials	
Cost to DEEWR (Non staff costs directly attributable to FOI – i.e. paper, postage, travel, external solicitors fees).	\$15,000.00 ²

² Amount is an estimate only. Estimate includes stationary (eg. paper, postage, phones) and FOI related training.