

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM0338_14

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Freedom of Information - Departmental resources

- 1) What resources does the department commit to its Freedom of Information team?
- 2) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned solely to Freedom of Information requests
- 3) List the staffing resources by APS level assigned indirectly to Freedom of Information requests
- 4) Does the department ever second additional resources to processing Freedom of Information requests?
 - a. If so, please detail those resources by APS level

Answer

There are no staff solely assigned to FOI requests. The Information Law Team within the Corporate Legal group, which comprises legal and non-legal staff ranging from Graduate Lawyer to EL2 (Principal Government Lawyer), manages FOI requests, in addition to advising the department on FOI and privacy.

Officers in relevant policy/programme areas within the department are routinely engaged to assist in processing FOI requests, primarily to search for and retrieve relevant documents subject to an FOI request.

The department has not to date seconded any additional resources to assist in processing FOI requests.