

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Estimates 2012-13  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department:** Parliamentary Budget Office

**Topic:** Average turnaround time for policy costings

**Senator:** Senator Mathias Cormann

**Question reference number:** 53

**Type of question:** Written

**Question**

**Senator CORMANN: What is the average turnaround time taken by the Parliamentary Budget Office to date on policy costing requests?**

**Mr Bowen: I would have to take that one on board—**

**Answer**

As of 25 March 2013, the PBO has received 269 requests for costings or information from Parliamentarians. Of these, 6 were subsequently withdrawn and advice has been provided in respect of 208. The average time taken to complete these 208 costings was 36.3 business days, with half of these requests being completed in 32.5 days or less.

Average response times have been decreasing as the PBO's resources have increased, as processes for obtaining information from Commonwealth agencies have bedded down and as the PBO has built its own holdings of data. The PBO has completed 30 costings that were received since the start of 2013. The average time taken to complete these 30 requests was 13 business days.

The PBO will provide regular updates to the committee on turnaround time for policy costings.