

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates - February 2013
ANSWER TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General

Program 1: Support for the Governor-General and Official Activities

Outcome 1: The performance of the Governor-General's role is facilitated through the organisation and management of official duties, management and maintenance of the official household and property and administration of the Australian Honours and Awards system.

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: PM55

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 April 2013

Number of Pages: 1

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

What is the total cost to the department/agency 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 of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all agencies within its portfolio on 28 July 2011. The Office has sought both general and specific advice from the Australian Government Solicitor in relation to FOI matters. The Office has also sought general advice on FOI matters from the Office of the Information Commissioner.

This FYTD (as at 31 January 2013) \$263.45 (attributed to 4.25 staff hours)

This FYTD (as at 31 January 2013) – Two FOI requests received

This FYTD (as at 31 January 2013) – One request granted; one request not granted

No, no