

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2012

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Freedom of Information**

Question: **82**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 6 July 2012

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 to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3.
 - a. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
 - b. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
 - c. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?
 - d. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
 - e. If so, how many and why?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer

1. No.
2. Less than \$5,000.
3. Since the Information Commissioner's guidelines were amended on 9 May 2012 to include the parliamentary departments as being subject to the FOI Act:
 - a. Six.
 - b. Three requests have been refused, as no documents existed; one granted; and one subsequently withdrawn.
 - c. No.
 - d. The remaining request is currently being processed in accordance with FOI timeframes
 - e. Not applicable.
4. None.