

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing 21-24 May 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.1 Domestic Policy

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 88

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of pages: 2

Question:

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. 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?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

1. The Department has not received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests additional to that referred to in the Department's answer to Question reference number 91 from the February 2012 Additional Estimates.
2. The costs to the Department to process FOI requests for the 2011-12 financial year will be reported in the Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report for 2011-12.
3. Information about FOI requests received by the Department for the 2011-12 financial year will be reported in the Freedom of Information Act 1982 Annual Report for 2011-12.

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4. Nil; as previously advised, the power to issue conclusive certificates under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* was abolished in 2009.