

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates Hearing – May 2012
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: PM88

Type of Question: Written

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

Number of Pages: 2

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

What was the total cost to the department 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?

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

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.

2011-2012 - \$1007 (attributed to 19 staff hours)

2011-2012 - Eleven FOI requests were received

2011-2012 - Six requests were denied; three requests were granted; and two requests were referred to other agencies.

No, No

N/A; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.