

Department/Agency: Department of the Senate

Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 15

Type of question: Written

Questions

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

Answer

No updated advice has been received.

However, the *Parliamentary Service Amendment (Freedom of Information) Act 2013* which came into effect on 28 June 2013 has clarified the situation in relation to the parliamentary departments and the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

While FOI does not apply to the parliamentary departments, the Senate Department will still comply with the spirit of the law in relation to FOI requests of an administrative nature.

- 2. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for this financial year?**

Answer

Not applicable.

- 3. How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive for this financial year?**

Answer

During the period that the FOI Act applied to the Senate Department (ie until 28 June 2013), a total of three FOI requests were received during the financial year 2012-13.

- 4. How many requests were denied and how many were granted?**

Answer

In relation to these FOI requests, access to the information sought was granted in one case.

In the other two cases, the Senate Department did not have any documents which would have satisfied the requests.

5. 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

No, the department has not failed to meet the processing times for these requests.

No requests were outstanding at the time that the changed arrangements took effect on 28 June 2013.

6. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer

Not applicable.

7. 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

Refer responses to questions 15(3) – 15(5) above.