

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-12

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: PM134

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011

Number of Pages: 1

Question:

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the Department received for the year 2010-11? How many have been granted or denied?
3. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for the year 2010-11?
4. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this FYTD? How many have been granted or denied?
5. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this FYTD?

Answer:

1. 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.
2. See Annual Report 2010-11 p.54
3. Nil; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.
4. One FOI request received and transferred to PM&C in its entirety.
5. Nil; conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009.