

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 15-18 October 2012

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.3 Support Services for Government Operations

Topic: Freedom of Information Requests

Senator: Senator Ryan

Question reference number: 90

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 November 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/agency to process FOI requests for 2011-12? How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive in 2011-12? How many requests were denied and how many were granted? Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many? Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
3. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
4. 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:

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 PM91 from the February 2012 Additional Estimates (attached).
2. Information concerning the Department's processing of FOI requests for the 2011-12 financial year was reported in Chapter 9 of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's (OAIC's) *Annual Report for 2011-12* and in the *2011-12 Freedom of information agency statistics* on the OAIC's web site at:
http://www.oaic.gov.au/publications/reports/foi_agency_statistics_11-12/index.html.

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3. The costs to the Department to process FOI requests for the 2012-13 financial year will be reported to the OAIC at the end of the financial year for inclusion in the *2012-13 Freedom of information agency statistics*.
4. Information about FOI requests received by the Department for the 2012-13 financial year will be reported to the OAIC at the end of the financial year for inclusion in the *2012-13 Freedom of information agency statistics*.