

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 15 OCTOBER 2012

PM&C Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** National Mental Health Commission  
**Outcome/Program:** National Mental Health Commission  
**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:** 1

**Question:**

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

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?

What is 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?

**Answer:**

The National Mental Health Commission seeks advice as required on FOI matters, and has completed its response to the one Freedom of Information (FOI) request received since its establishment on 1 January 2012.

This request was granted with deletions on the basis of public interest conditional exemption - personal privacy; section 47F(1) of the FOI Act. Details are available on the disclosure log on our website.

The Commission is a small agency that is establishing a range of internal systems and processes, including those to support FOI processing. The Commission did not process the FOI request within the times outlined in the FOI Act and therefore did not calculate charges or processing costs, and was in communication with the applicant in this regard.