

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**Question No. 121**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 23 February 2009:**

In relation to Freedom of Information requests;

- a) has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests,
- b) how many FOI requests has the Department received,
- c) how many have been granted or denied, and
- d) how many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Attorney-General's Department

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the Department has received 120 FOI requests.
- c) In this period, 70 were granted either in full or in part, and 18 were denied in full. These numbers do not include requests which were withdrawn, transferred or, in relation to which, the Department held no documents.
- d) None.

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the AAT has received five FOI requests.
- c) Of those requests, two were granted either in full or in part, and three were denied in full.
- d) None.

Australian Commission for Law Enforcement and Integrity

- a) No.
- b) None.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

- a) Yes.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, Customs has received 53 FOI requests.

- c) In this period, 54 requests were granted either in full or in part, and 10 were denied in full. These numbers do not include requests which were withdrawn, transferred or, in relation to which, the Service held no documents.
- d) None.

Australian Crime Commission

- a) Yes.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the ACC has received 13 FOI requests.
- c) Of those requests, five were granted either in full or in part, and eight were denied in full.
- d) None.

Australian Federal Police

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the AFP has received 398 FOI requests.
- c) In this period, 223 were granted either in full or in part, and 14 were denied in full. These numbers do not include requests which were withdrawn, transferred or, in relation to which, the AFP held no documents. The balance of the requests are pending completion.
- d) None.

Australian Institute of Criminology and Criminal Research

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the AIC has received one FOI request.
- c) This request was granted in full.
- d) None.

Australian Law Reform Commission

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the ALRC has received one FOI request.
- c) This request was granted in full.
- d) None.

AUSTRAC

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007 AUSTRAC has received a total of 33 requests.
- c) Of those requests, 21 were granted either in full or in part, nine were denied in full, three are still on hand.

d) None.

Federal Court of Australia (including the Australian Copyright Tribunal and the Defence Force Discipline Appeals Tribunal)

a) No.

b) Since 1 November 2007, the above-listed Court and Tribunals have received four FOI requests.

c) Of those requests, 3 were granted either in full or in part, and one was denied in full.

d) None.

CrimTrac

a) No.

b) Since 1 November 2007, CrimTrac has received two FOI requests.

c) One request was granted in full, the other was transferred.

d) None.

Family Court of Australia

a) No.

b) Since 1 November 2007 the Court has received five FOI requests to date.

c) Of those requests, three were granted either in full or in part, one request was for documents not held by the Court and one is still on hand.

d) None.

Federal Magistrates Court of Australia

a) No.

b) Since 1 November 2007 the Federal Magistrates Court has received two FOI requests.

c) One request was invalid as no application fee was paid. The Court had no record of having any documents relevant to the second request.

d) None.

High Court of Australia

a) No.

b) None.

c) Not applicable.

d) Not applicable.

National Capital Authority

- a) No.
- b) The NCA has received four FOI requests since 1 November 2007.
- c) The 4 requests were granted either in part or in full.
- d) None.

Office of Parliamentary Council

- a) No.
- b) None.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.

Australian Government Solicitor

AGS is a government business enterprise and is not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

National Institute of Forensic Science

- a) No.
- b) None.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.

National Crime Statistics Unit

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the NCSU has received two FOI requests.
- c) Of those requests, one was granted partially, the other request was for documents not held by the NSCU.
- d) None.

Australian Human Rights Commission

- a) No.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, the Commission has received 15 FOI requests.
- c) Of those requests, 12 were granted either in full or partially, one was denied in full and two are still on hand.
- d) None.

Insolvency and Trustee Services Australia

- a) Yes.
- b) Since 1 November 2007, ITSA has received 7 FOI requests.
- c) Of those requests, six were granted either in full or partially, one is still on hand.
- d) None.

National Native Title Tribunal

- a) No.
- b) None.
- c) Not applicable.
- d) Not applicable.