

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0063) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

FOI requests: How many FOI requests has the department received in the financial year 2011 to date? How many of those were responded to within the 30 day statutory requirement? In how many cases did the department request an extension of time in order to satisfy the request?

Answer:

For the 2011-12 financial year to 31 March 2012, the department received 9 322 FOI requests.

For requests due in 2011-12 to 31 March 2012, the department finalised 8 079 (84.9%) requests within 30 days.

For 432 requests due in 2011-12 to 31 March 2012, the department requested an extension of time in order to satisfy the request.

The department finalises requests outside of the 30 day time period that meet the statutory requirements of the FOI Act. This is a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.