

## **QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

### **SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012**

#### **IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO**

#### **(SE12/0067) PROGRAM – Internal Product**

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Freedom of Information: When the Department advises the Minister's office of documents that will be released under FOI, is the authorised decision maker required to wait for a response from the Minister's office before releasing the documents to the applicant? If so, what is the average wait time? If not, is there a specific timeframe in which the Minister's office has to respond by before the Department releases the documents to the applicant?

*Answer:*

As stated in the Australian Information Commissioner's Own Motion Investigation, the decision maker awaits comments from the Minister's office for requests on the 'Significant Case Register' prior to release. The Department does not keep statistics on the elapsed time between sending a document to the Minister's office and receiving a response. The Department requests a response within five days of sending the proposed decision to the Minister's office.