

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0074) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (written) asked:

Freedom of Information: How many FOI requests is the Department currently processing? Of these, how many are overdue? For each overdue request, how many days is it overdue by?

Answer:

As at COB 30 September 2012 the Department had 1024 requests on hand. A total of 303 requests were on hand over 30 days, of which 64 had valid extensions under the legislation and 239 requests were outside the statutory timeframe.

The very detailed information sought on the number of days cases were overdue at a point in time is not readily available in consolidated form and it would be a major task to collect and assemble it. The considerable resources required to collate the information cannot be justified.

Of the 303 requests the Department had on hand over 30 days, 100 were on hand for 31-60 days, 39 were on hand for 61-90 days and 164 were on hand for more than 90 days.