

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

13 – 14 February 2013

Question: AET 423-425

Topic: Freedom of Information

Written: Received from Committee – 22 February 2013

Senator BUSHBY asked:

423. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
424. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date (22 February 2013)?
- 425.
- a. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date (22 February 2013)?
 - b. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
 - c. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?
 - d. Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

423. The ACCC has received advice on how to respond to FOI requests from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), DLA Piper and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).
424. The ACCC is unable to provide the total cost of processing FOI requests for this financial year to date (22 February 2013). This is due to the time frame available to collect the information. It would also be an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile this data ahead of the regular reporting cycle, which is at the end of the financial year when total FOI processing costs are calculated and provided to the OAIC.
- 425.
- a. To date (22 February 2013) the ACCC has received 59 new FOI requests.
Five requests were carried over from the previous financial year.
 - b. For this financial year to date (22 February 2013) the ACCC has finalised 59 FOI requests as follows:
Granted – 11
Part Granted – 18
Refused – 17

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Withdrawn – 13

- c. The ACCC has met all processing times outlined in the FOI Act for all FOI requests.
- d. 5 requests remain outstanding as an access decision has not yet been made. They remain within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.