

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 370-373**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

370. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
371. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
372. How many FOI requests has the department/agency received for this financial year to date?  
a. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
373. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?  
a. If so, how many and why?  
b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?  
i. If so, how many and why?

**Answer:**

370. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) has issued guidelines under section 93A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, available on the OAIC website at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/freedom-of-information/applying-the-foi-act/foi-guidelines/>. The guidelines are updated periodically and were last updated in March 2013.
371. Costs are prepared at the end of each financial year and reported to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner by 31 July 2013 for inclusion in their Freedom of Information Annual Report. There are currently no figures available for the 2012-13 financial year.
372. Treasury received 130 FOI requests between 1 July 2012 and 31 May 2013. Note: Figures are for the department only and do not include requests to Ministers.  
Of the 130 requests received:
- 31 requests — access was granted in full or part
  - 32 requests — access was denied
  - 49 requests — withdrawn
  - 8 requests — transferred to another agency
  - 10 requests — ongoing and currently being processed

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373. Treasury met the statutory processing times for all FOI requests in the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013.