

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

17 October – 18 October 2012

Question: SBT 654-662

Topic: Freedom of Information (ACCC)

Written: Received from Committee – 26 October 2012

Senator BUSHBY asked:

654. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
655. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for 2011-12?
656. How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive in 2011-12?
657. How many requests were denied and how many were granted?
658. Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
 - a. If so, how many?
 - b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
659. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date (26 October 2012)?
660. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date (26 October 2012)?
661. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
662. 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? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

654. 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).
655. The total cost to the ACCC to process FOI requests for 2011-2012 was \$143 401. Note that the amount may not be comparable with whole year data reported in the FOI Act Annual Report, as the data reported there involves work by the OAIC after collection of raw annual cost information inputs from agencies and ministers.
656. The ACCC received 53 FOI requests in the 2011-2012 financial year.

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657. In 2011-2012 the ACCC finalised 55 FOI requests as follows:

- Granted – 10
- Part Granted – 21
- Refused – 11
- Withdrawn – 13

5 requests remained outstanding at the end of the 2011-2012 financial year and were carried over to the 2012-13 financial year.

658. ACCC has met all processing times outlined in the FOI Act for all FOI requests in the 2011-12 financial year.

659. The ACCC is unable to provide the total cost of processing FOI requests for the financial year to date (26 October 2012). This is due to the time frame available to collect the information and it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile this data ahead of the regular reporting cycle.

660. In the financial year to date (to 26 October 2012) the ACCC received 24 new FOI requests.

661. In the financial year to date (to 26 October 2012) the ACCC has finalised 19 FOI requests as follows:

- Granted – 6
- Part Granted – 5
- Refused – 3
- Withdrawn – 5

10 requests remain outstanding as an access decision has not yet been made. These requests remain within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.

662. ACCC has met all processing times outlined in the FOI Act for all FOI requests in the financial year to date.