

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0008\_12**

**Senator Abetz provided in writing.**

**Question**

**Freedom Of Information**

- 1.Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- 2.How many FOI requests has the Department received? How many have been granted or denied? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

**Answer**

1.Yes. The department has received advice from the then Cabinet Secretary Senator the Hon John Faulkner in April 2009 and from the Minister for Privacy and Freedom of Information the Hon Brendon O'Connor MP in October 2010, as well as guidelines issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The Department has also, from time to time, obtained legal advice in relation to individual FOI applications.

2.

<b>1 July 2010 – 31 March 2011</b>	
<i>Requests being processed as at 1 July 2010</i>	43
Total requests received	275
<b>Decisions made</b>	
Full release	107
Partial release	52
Refused	22
<b>Alternative outcomes</b>	
Withdrawn	65
Transferred	8
Conclusive certificates	0
<i>Requests being processed as at 31March 2011</i>	64

