

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Budget Estimates 2014–15  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio  
May 2014**

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<b>Department</b>	Parliamentary Budget Office
<b>Topic</b>	Freedom of Information
<b>Senator</b>	Senator Ludwig
<b>Question reference number</b>	141
<b>Type of question</b>	Written

**Question**

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

**Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister**

- 1 Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
- 2 If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:
  - a The Department or Agency which was consulted.
  - b The document.
  - c The purpose of the consultation.
  - d Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension, and
  - e Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension.
- 3 Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?
- 4 If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:
  - a The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted.
  - b The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted.
  - c The purpose of the consultation.
  - d Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension.

- e Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension, and
- f Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office.

### Staffing resources

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

- 1 For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE allocated to processing FOI requests?

### FOI Disclosure Log

- 1 For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency:
  - a Maintain a webpage allowing download of documents released under section 11A (direct download)?
  - b Require individuals to contact the Department or Agency to ask for the provision of those documents (request for provision)?
  - c Facilitate to those documents in a different manner (if so, specify).
- 2 If the Department or Agency has moved from a system of meetings its 11C obligations by direct download, to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision, provide the following information:
  - a The dates for which documents were made available for direct download, and the dates for which documents were made available through request for provision.
  - b The total number of direct downloads of documents released under 11A the Departmental or Agency website.
  - c The total number of requests for provision to documents that had been directly received, and how many had been processed by 6 June 2014?
  - d What was the average FTE allocated to monitoring incoming email, collating and forwarding documents providing under a request for provision?
    - (i) What was the approximate cost for salaries for the FTE staff allocated to this task?
- 3 Has the Department or Agency charged any for access to a document under section 11C(4)?
- 4 If so, please provide the following information in a table:
  - a On how many occasions charges have been imposed.
  - b The amount charged for each document.
  - c The total amount charged, and
  - d What is the highest charge that has been imposed?

**Answer**

The Parliamentary Budget Office is an exempt agency under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.