

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Department of the Senate

Budget Estimates

26-30 May 2014

Question: 31
Topic: FOI requests
Written: 12 June 2014

Senator LUDWIG asked:

Since 7 September 2013:

- a) How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
- b) Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
- c) Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
 - i) For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
 - ii) For how many has a redacted document been provided?

Answer:

The department is not subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* as a consequence of the *Parliamentary Service Amendment (Freedom of Information) Act 2013* which received Royal Assent on 28 June 2013.

That Act corrected a recently discovered but unintended consequence of the enactment of the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*, which inadvertently applied the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* to the department. This Act restored that exclusion from the FOI Act for parliamentary departments and office holders under the *Parliamentary Service Act 1999*.

Nonetheless, the department confirmed in its 2012-13 Annual Report that it will continue to comply with the spirit of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* for requests for information on administrative matters.