

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21-22 MAY 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE12/0064) Program: Internal Product

Senator Cash asked:

FOI requests: For requests due in 2011-12, how many requests older than 30 days remain outstanding? What are the reasons for these requests falling outside the 30 day response period? What was the median timeframe for providing responses to FOI requests in financial year 2011 to date?

Answer:

Of the requests due in 2011-12 to 31 March 2012, 318 requests older than 30 days remained outstanding at COB 31 March 2012. A total of 106 of these 318 requests had received extensions of time under the FOI Act.

The reasons for these requests falling outside the 30 day response period relate to the size and/or the complexity of these requests.

For the 9 293 FOI requests finalised by the department in financial year 2011-12 to 31 March 2012, the median timeframe for providing responses to FOI requests was 28 days.