

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

**All Programs**

**Question No. 92**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:**

- a) Has the Department (Portfolio) received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) How many FOI requests has the Department (Portfolio) received?
- c) How many have been granted or denied?
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?
- e) Has the Department (Portfolio) received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?
- f) Has the Department (Portfolio) received any FOI request for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

- a. Yes - some agencies received advice from the Australian Government Solicitor.
- b. 231
- c. Of those 231 requests, 39 requests were granted in full, 94 were granted in part and 23 were denied in full. 54 of the requests are still on hand being processed (these figures do not include cases where the particular agency held no documents, requests that were later withdrawn or requests that were transferred to another agency).
- d. None. Conclusive certificates have been abolished.
- e. On 2 and 3 November 2010, the Department received FOI requests for the Incoming Government Brief. These requests will be processed in the usual manner, consistent with the FOI Act.
- f. On 3 November, the Department received a request for briefing prepared in the event of an incoming coalition government. The FOI request will be processed in the usual manner, consistent with the FOI Act.