

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 – 2016, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000183

**OUTCOME:** 0 – Whole of Portfolio

**Topic:** FoI Requests

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Ludwig, Joe

**Question:**

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

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

**Answer:**

1. The Department of Health received 113 requests for access to documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (the Act) during the period of 14 September 2015 to 29 February 2016.
2. The Department of Health does not maintain statistical records about the number of documents determined to be deliberative documents. Our records show, however, that three of these 113 requests involved refusal of access in whole or in part on the basis they were deliberative documents.
3.
  - a) All deliberative documents to which access was refused were refused on the basis that disclosure would be contrary to the public interest.
  - b) The Department does not have a record of the number of redacted documents that have been provided.