

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio**

Question No: 173
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Legal
Topic: Freedom of Information - Status
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

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

1. How many FOI requests were received to date.
2. How many of those requests were finalised within the regular timeframes provided under the FOI Act?
3. How many of those requests were granted an extension of time under s 15AA of the FOI Act?
4. How many of those requests were granted an extension of time under s 15AB of the FOI Act?
5. How many of those requests were finalised out of time?

Answer:

1. In the period from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016, the Department of the Environment received 42 FOI requests.
2. Of the requests that have since been finalised, all were finalised within the timeframes set out in the FOI Act. No current requests are outside the statutory timeframes.
3. The Department was granted an extension of time under s15AA of the FOI Act for four requests.
4. The Department did not seek any extensions of time under s15AB of the FOI Act.
5. All requests which were granted an extension of time were finalised within the agreed timeframes.