

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

Question No: 174
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Legal
Topic: FOI Request
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 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. In the period from 14 September 2015 to 19 February 2016, the Department of the Environment received 42 FOI requests.
2. Of the 320 documents which the Department has released in relation to these requests, the Department decided that 11 documents in two separate FOI requests contained deliberative content.
3. Out of the 11 documents decided to contain deliberative content;
 - a) Access to four documents was refused in full on the basis that release would be contrary to the public interest; and
 - b) Seven documents were released with the deliberative content redacted.