

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates February 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 26

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 14/03/2017

Topic: FOI

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
2. How many FOI requests did the Department receive in 2016? How many requests were denied and how many have been granted?
3. How many FOI requests did the Department receive in 2015? How many requests were denied and how many have been granted?
4. For 2016 and 2017 has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?

Answer:

1. The financial year statistical reports that the Department is required to submit (on a quarterly basis) to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner under regulation 5 of the *Freedom of Information (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 1982*, indicate that, as at 28 February 2017, the Department had received 24 FOI requests during the 2016-17 financial year. As at 30 December 2016, access was granted in part for six requests and no requests resulted in an access refusal decision.
2. In 2015-16, the Department received 55 FOI requests. Access was granted in full for three requests and access granted in part for 17 requests. There were five requests which resulted in an access refusal decision.
3. In 2014-15, the Department received 31 FOI requests. Access was granted in full for three requests and access granted in part for 17 requests. There were five requests which resulted in an access refusal decision.
4. The Department has met all statutory processing timeframes in financial year 2016-17.