

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

Question No: 247
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Corporate
Programme: Policy and Communications Division
Topic: Portfolio wide – Freedom of Information – staffing resources
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 26 May 2014
Question Type: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:
For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

Answer:

Department of the Environment

1.3 FTE staff are allocated to coordinate the Department's FOI requests.

Processing of requests occurs in the relevant Departmental area, and the number of officers assigned to process FOI requests depends on the particular nature of the work involved in processing any particular request. A recent report to the Information Commissioner indicated 4,920 hours was spent on processing FOI requests by Departmental officers for the year ending 30 June 2014.

Bureau of Meteorology

0.5 FTE staff (on basis that it is only part of the EL1 FOI / Privacy / Records role).

Clean Energy Regulator

As previously advised in Question on Notice number 176 from Additional Estimates 2014, no officer is assigned directly (or solely) to FOI requests.

The number of officers assigned to process FOI requests (and the time spent by those officers undertaking that task) depends on the number of requests on hand on the particular date and the nature of the work involved in processing any particular request.

Climate Change Authority

The Climate Change Authority allocated 10 hours processing FOI requests for the period 18 September 2013 to 26 May 2014.

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority had an average of one FTE allocated to processing FOI requests for the period from 18 September 2013.

Murray Darling Basin Authority

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority averaged 3% of an FTE processing FOI requests for the period 18 September 2013 to 26 May 2014,

National Water Commission

No FOI requests were received during the period. The Commission does not have a dedicated FOI team because of its small size. As FOI requests are received staff are assigned on a case-by-case basis to assist with researching and responding to the request.

Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

One FTE staff was allocated to processing FOI requests for the period 18 September 2013 to 26 May 2014.