

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Budget Estimates**

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 652-655**

**Topic: Freedom of Information (ASIC)**

**Hansard Page: Written (Received from Committee 13 June 2012)**

**Senator Bushby asked:**

652. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
653. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
654. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?  
a) How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?  
b) Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why?  
c) Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?
655. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

652. ASIC regularly consults with the OAIC on the operation of the FOI Act.
653. ASIC does not maintain records on the cost of processing FOI requests by ASIC staff. The number of staff hours spent on FOI work is as follows:  
2010/2011 – 2473 hours  
2011/2012 - 3145 hours
654. ASIC received 270 requests for this financial year.  
a) Denied: 70  
Granted: 142  
Withdrawn : 52  
Ongoing: 6  
b) 8 requests received during this period were not processed within the statutory time period. The decision makers sought extensions of time from the OAIC and were granted extensions of time.  
c) No.
655. None. Conclusive certificates are no longer available under the FOI Act. The relevant provisions were repealed in 2009.