

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 656-659

Topic: Freedom of Information (ABS)

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

Senator Bushby asked:

656. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
657. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
658. 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?
659. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

Answer:

656. No.
657. 39 days. Note: The ABS can only provide an estimate of staff days, not actual costs.
658. As at 31 May 2012, the ABS had received 22 FOI requests for the financial year.
- (a) Access granted in full - 2
 - Access granted in part - 5
 - Access not granted - 10
- Note: 2 requests were withdrawn, 2 were transferred to other agencies and 1 request is still being processed.
- (b) One. The envelope was incorrectly directed internally and not received by the FOI Contact Officer within the timeframe.
 - (c) One request is still being processed; however this is within the statutory timeframes.
659. None.