

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

**Budget Estimates**

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 660-663**

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

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

**Senator Bushby asked:**

660. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
661. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
662. 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?
663. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

**Answer:**

660. The ACCC has received advice on how to respond to FOI requests from the Australian Government Solicitor and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.
661. In the 2011-2012 financial year (1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012), the total cost to the ACCC to process FOI requests was approximately \$359 591.55. This amount is calculated as follows:

Item	2011-12 FYTD \$
Staff Costs*	215 179.40
Postage/Photocopying	\$2,757.30
Legal/Counsel Fees	\$124,117.00
Cabcharge*	\$221.97
Telephone*	\$265.88
Computer Costs	\$16,160.00
Training*	\$890.00

\*Please note that these amounts are estimates.

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662. The ACCC received 53 FOI requests in the 2011-2012 financial year (1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012).

(a)

Granted	10
Part Granted	21
Refused	11
Withdrawn	13

(b) No.

(c) 5 requests remain outstanding as an access decision has not yet been made. They remain within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.

663. Nil, conclusive certificates were abolished 7 October 2009.