

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

4 – 6 June 2013

**Question: BET 805-808**

**Topic: Freedom of Information**

**Written: 17 June 2013**

**Senator BUSHBY asked:**

805. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
806. What is the total cost to the department/agency to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?\*
807. How many FOI requests has the department/agency received for this financial year to date?
- a. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
808. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
- a. If so, how many and why?
- b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
- l. If so, how many and why?

*\* Financial year to date – 31 May 2013*

**Answers:**

805. The ACCC has received advice on how to respond to FOI requests from the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS), DLA Piper and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC).
806. The ACCC is unable to provide the total cost of processing FOI requests for this financial year to date (31 May 2013). This is due to the time frame available to collect the information. It would also be an unreasonable diversion of resources to compile this data ahead of the regular reporting cycle, which is at the end of the financial year when total FOI processing costs are calculated and provided to the OAIC.
807. To date (31 May 2013) the ACCC has received 75 FOI requests for this financial year. Five requests were carried over from the previous financial year.
- a. For this financial year to date (31 May 2013) the ACCC has finalised 75 FOI requests as follows:
- |               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Granted:      | 17 |
| Part Granted: | 20 |
| Refused:      | 17 |
| Withdrawn:    | 21 |

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808. The ACCC has met all processing times outlined in the FOI Act for all FOI requests. Five requests remain outstanding as an access decision has not yet been made. These requests remain within the processing times outlined in the FOI Act.