

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014
3 June to 5 June 2014

Department/ Agency: Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Question: BET 2191-2199

Topic: Freedom of Information – Consultation with other Departments

Reference: Written 12 June 2014

Senator: Ludwig

Question:

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

- 2191 Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
- 2192 If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:
- a) The Department or Agency which was consulted;
 - b) The document;
 - c) The purpose of the consultation;
 - d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
 - e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension
- 2193 Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?
- 2194 If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:
- a) The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
 - b) The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
 - c) The purpose of the consultation;
 - d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
 - e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension
 - f) Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office

Staffing resources

The following questions relate to the period from 18 September 2013:

- 2195 For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

FOI Disclosure Log

- 2196 For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency:

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- a) Maintain a webpage allowing download of documents released under section 11A (direct download)?
 - b) Require individuals to contact the Department or Agency to ask for the provision of those documents (request for provision)?
 - c) Facilitate to those documents in a different manner (if so, specify).
- 2197 If the Department or Agency has moved from a system of meetings its 11C obligations by direct download, to a system of meeting those obligations by request for provision, provide the following information:
- a) The dates for which documents were made available for direct download, and the dates for which documents were made available through request for provision;
 - b) The total number of direct downloads of documents released under 11A the Departmental or Agency website;
 - c) The total number of requests for provision to documents that had been directly received, and how many had been processed by [date]?
 - d) What was the average FTE allocated to monitoring incoming email, collating and forwarding documents providing under a request for provision?
 - i. What was the approximate cost for salaries for the FTE staff allocated to this task?
- 2198 Has the Department or Agency charged any for access to a document under section 11C(4)?
- a. If so, please provide the following information in a table:
 - i. On how many occasions charges have been imposed;
 - ii. The amount charged for each document
 - iii. The total amount charged;
 - iv. What is the highest charge that has been imposed.

With respect to FOI requests:

- 2199 How many documents were assessed (at internal review or - if internal review was not requested - by the original decision maker) as conditionally exempt?
- a) Of those, how many were:
 - i. Released in full
 - ii. Released in part
 - iii. Refused access on the grounds that release of the document would be contrary to the public interest
 - iv. Other (please specify)

Answer:

The answers to the honourable Senator's questions are as follows:

- 2191 There are a range of provisions under the Freedom of Information Act 1982 including but not limited to sections 26A, 26AA, 27 and 27A that permit the Department of the Treasury to consult the CEFC on the content of documents containing specific types of information. However the CEFC is not routinely informed or consulted about requests directed to the Treasury and would only expect to be under these provisions if it were required.

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2192 The CEFC has not been informed or consulted by Treasury for any requests in the 2013-14 financial year.

a)-e) Not applicable.

2193-2194

The CEFC does not monitor how the Department consults or informs the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests. This question should be directed to the Department of the Treasury.

2195 In the period from 18 September 2013 to date the CEFC has expended approximately 14 hours to specifically processing FOI requests.

2196 a) **Yes.**

b) To date we have uploaded clickable pdf files on our disclosure log for each application finalised. However, we note that the Freedom of Information guidelines published by the Information Commissioner on the OAIC website make provision for alternative access options.

c) Not to date.

2197 Not applicable.

2198 No.

i)-iv) Not applicable.

2199 0.

i)-iv) Not applicable.