

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

**Department/ Agency:** AASB/ AUASB

**Question:** BET 2855 - 2863

**Topic:** Freedom of Information – Consultation with other Departments, Agencies, and Minister, Staffing Resources, FOI Disclosure Log, FO1 Requests

**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**

- 2855 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?
- 2856 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
- 2857 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?
- 2858 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

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- 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:

- 2859 For the period of time from 18 September 2013, what was the average FTE is allocated to processing FOI requests?

**FOI Disclosure Log**

- 2860 For the purposes of meeting its obligations under 11C of the Act, does the Department or Agency:
- 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).
- 2861 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?
- 2862 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:**

- 2863 How many documents were assessed (at internal review or - if internal review was not requested - by the original decision maker) as conditionally exempt?

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- 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: (AASB)**

- 2855 No.
- 2856 Not Applicable.
- 2857 Not Applicable.
- 2858 Not Applicable.
- 2859 Not Applicable.
- 2860 Yes.
- 2861 Not Applicable.
- 2862 No.
- 2863 None.

**Answer: (AUASB)**

- 2855 No.
- 2856 Not Applicable.
- 2857 Not Applicable.
- 2858 Not Applicable.
- 2859 Not Applicable.
- 2860 Yes.
- 2861 Not Applicable.
- 2862 No.
- 2863 None.