

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: Treasury

Question: SBT 268-271

Topic: FOI

Reference: written - 30 October 2015

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

FOI

Since 1 January 2015:

268. How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
269. Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
270. Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
- a) For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
 - b) For how many has a redacted document been provided?
271. How many requests to Ministerial offices has the Department/agency managed on their behalf? Please detail.
- a) How many officials and how many hours have been spent working on each FOI request?
 - b) Who was the decision-maker in each case?
 - c) For each case, did the Minister/Minister's office disagree with advice from Treasury? Why?

Answer:

268. 179 FOI requests were received by Treasury during the period 1 January 2015 to 30 October 2015.
269. In processing these requests, a total of 124 documents (relating to 13 requests) have been determined to be deliberative.
270. a) Of the 124 documents, access to 113 documents was refused on the basis that release would be contrary to the public interest.
- b) Nine redacted documents were released.

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271. During the period 1 January 2015 to 30 October 2015 Treasury has managed 19 FOI requests on behalf of Ministerial offices.

a) A Treasury action officer provides approximately two hours' of administrative and processing support work for each FOI request to Minister's offices.

b) 11 FOI requests were managed for the Treasurer's office. The decision maker for each was Mr Alistair Campbell, Adviser.

Two FOI requests were managed for the office of the Minister for Small Business. The decision maker for both was Mr Kane Silom, Adviser.

Five FOI requests were managed for the Assistant Treasurer's office. The decision maker for four of the requests was Mr Dan Cronin, Adviser. Mr Martin Codina, Chief of Staff, was the decision maker for the fifth request.

One FOI request was managed for the office of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer. The decision maker was Ms Tania Coltman, Chief of Staff.

c) Treasury's support to Ministerial offices comprises administrative and processing support for FOI requests. Treasury's advisory role is very limited in respect of exemption claims and only provided when requested by the decision maker. We are not aware of any instances where there was a divergence of view on processing matters in respect of FOI requests.