

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Freedom of Information

Senator: McAllister

Question reference number: F116

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

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

1. For the financial year 2016/2017, how many requests for documents under the Act have been received? For how many has a redacted document been provided?
2. Does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests? If so, detail each occasion.
3. Has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about any Freedom of Information requests it has received? If yes, detail each occasion

Answer:

1. As at 24 May 2017, the Department of Finance (Finance) received 139 requests for documents under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) for the 2016/2017 financial year. Each request is considered consistent with the provisions of the FOI Act. Redactions may be applied to a document for a variety of reasons, including material that is exempt, irrelevant, or outside the scope of the requested materials. For documents provided by Finance under the FOI Act refer to the disclosure log on Finance's website: <http://www.finance.gov.au/foi/disclosure-log/>.
2. Prior to an FOI access decision being made, Finance consults with other Departments or Agencies:
 - a. as required by the FOI Act; and
 - b. if the other Department or Agency may be affected by the decision.
3. The Ministers' offices are informed when an FOI request is received and an authorised decision maker is appointed and when a decision has been finalised under the FOI Act. The Ministers' offices also receives a weekly FOI report.