

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 08 February 2016

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(AE16/137) - FOI Requests - Internal Product (DIBP)

Senator Ludwig, Joe (L&CA) written:

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. How many requests for documents under the FOI Act have been received?
2. Of these, how many documents have been determined to be deliberative documents?
3. Of those assessed as deliberative documents:
 1. For how many has access to the document been refused on the basis that it would be contrary to the public interest?
 2. For how many has a redacted document been provided?

Answer:

1. Between 14 September 2015 and 29 February 2016, the Department received a total of 9,493 requests for access to documents under section 15 of the Freedom Of Information (FOI) Act.
2. The deliberative processes exemption under section 47C of the FOI Act was one of the exemptions used in 105 FOI decisions.

The Department does not store information on the number of documents exempted in each decision within its record management system. To provide this information, the Department would be required to separately identify each of the 105 decisions and manually review them in order to determine the precise number of documents to which section 47C was applied. The Department considers that providing a response to this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of its resources.

3:

1. In all 105 decisions it was determined that it would be contrary to the public interest to grant access to the documents (or parts of the documents) that attracted consideration of section 47C. For the reasons explained in the response to question 2, the Department is unable to provide the precise number of documents.
2. As outlined above, in order to provide this data the Department would need to manually review each of the decisions and the relevant documents. The preparation of a response to this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources.