

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

#### IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

#### (SE14/213) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Ludwig (Written) asked:

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

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

*Answer:*

Between Budget Estimates on 27 May 2014 and Supplementary Estimates on 20 October 2014:

- a. The portfolio received a total of 5,771 requests for access to documents under section 15 of the FOI Act.
- b. The deliberative exemption under s.47C of the FOI Act was one of the exemptions used in 87 decisions.
- c. i. Section 11A(5) of the FOI Act provides:  
*The agency or Minister must give the person access to the document if it is conditionally exempt at a particular time unless (in the circumstances) access to the document at that time would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.*  
The material exempted under s.47C would therefore have been exempted as contrary to the public interest.
- ii. In all 87 decisions it was determined that it would be contrary to the public interest to grant access to the documents that attracted consideration of s.47C.