

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

10 – 11 February 2010

**Question:** aet 29

**Topic:** Freedom of Information (ATO)

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senators BARNETT & EGGLESTON asked:**

1. Has the agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. How many FOI requests has the agency received?
3. How many have been granted or denied?
4. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests?

*Handling instructions:*

*Information is to be provided from 26 November 2007. The end date for figures is 3 March 2010.*

*“In terms of the question regarding receiving advice on handling FOI requests (No. 1), Senator Eggleston would like to know about advice from external sources including those engaged by the Department /Agency on a contractual basis on how to deal with FOI requests”*

**Answer:**

1. Yes. The ATO has obtained legal advice from service providers on our Commercial and General legal services panel in relation to some FOI requests that have been received.
2. 2,716 FOI requests have been received.
3. 2,048 requests were granted and 284 requests were denied.
4. Nil.