

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12  
15 February 2012

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**DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Freedom of Information (FOI)

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Bushby

**QUESTION No.:** AI – 229

1. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What was the total cost to the Department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
3. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for financial year to date?
4. How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11?
5. For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted?
6. Did the Department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many?
7. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
8. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
9. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
10. Has the Department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many?
11. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
12. How many conclusive certificates have been issued for this financial year to date?

**ANSWER**

<b>Agency</b>	
DIISRTE	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
AIATSI	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AIMS	Australian Institute of Marine Science
ANSTO	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
ARC	Australia Research Council
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
IP Australia	IP Australia

1. Yes. Guidance has been provided by April 2009 letter from the then Cabinet Secretary and October 2010 letter from the then Minister for Privacy and Freedom of Information relating to the recent reforms to the FOI Act. In addition, guidance has also been provided by the Australian Information Commissioner's Guidelines and PM&C guidelines prior to November 2010.

2. Total cost to agency to process FOI requests for financial year 2009-2010 and financial year 2010-2011

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
DIISRTE	2009-2010	133,829
DIISRTE	2010-2011	143,908
AIATSIS	2009-2010	6,385
AIATSIS	2010-2011	NIL
AIMS	2009-2010	NIL
AIMS	2010-2011	NIL
ANSTO	2009-2010	97,338
ANSTO	2010-2011	160,943
ARC	2009-2010	16,876
ARC	2010-2011	389
CSIRO	2009-2010	151,222
CSIRO	2010-2011	252,869
IP Australia	2009-2010	289,000
IP Australia	2010-2011	394,000

3. Total cost to agency to process FOI requests for financial year to date

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Cost (\$)</b>
DIISRTE	197,000
AIATSIS	NIL
AIMS	NIL
ANSTO	17,730
ARC	6,333.44
CSIRO	183,517.50
IP Australia	287,000

4. Number of FOI requests each agency received for the financial year 2009-2010 and financial year 2010-2011

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Requests received</b>
DIISRTE	2009-2010	39
DIISRTE	2010-2011	48
AIATSIS	2009-2010	1
AIATSIS	2010-2011	NIL
AIMS	2009-2010	NIL
AIMS	2010-2011	NIL
ANSTO	2009-2010	19
ANSTO	2010-2011	15
ARC	2009-2010	7
ARC	2010-2011	9
CSIRO	2009-2010	34
CSIRO	2010-2011	39
IP Australia	2009-2010	325
IP Australia	2010-2011	302

5. Number of FOI requests each agency denied and granted for the financial year 2009-2010 and financial year 2010-2011

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Denied</b>	<b>Granted</b>
DIISRTE	2009-2010	9	18
DIISRTE	2010-2011	6	24
AIATSIS	2009-2010	NIL	1
AIATSIS	2010-2011	NIL	NIL
AIMS	2009-2010	NIL	NIL
AIMS	2010-2011	NIL	NIL
ANSTO	2009-2010	NIL	2
ANSTO	2010-2011	3	19
ARC	2009-2010	NIL	5
ARC	2010-2011	1	9
CSIRO	2009-2010	6	28
CSIRO	2010-2011	6	27
IP Australia	2009-2010	3	325
IP Australia	2010-2011	2	264

6. Number of times that agency failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests for the financial year 2009-2010 and financial year 2010-2011.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of times</b>
DIISRTE	2009-2010	NIL
DIISRTE	2010-2011	NIL
AIATSIS	2009-2010	NIL
AIATSIS	2010-2011	NIL
AIMS	2009-2010	NIL
AIMS	2010-2011	NIL
ANSTO	2009-2010	1
ANSTO	2010-2011	16
ARC	2009-2010	2
ARC	2010-2011	2
CSIRO	2009-2010	NIL
CSIRO	2010-2011	NIL
IP Australia	2009-2010	31
IP Australia	2010-2011	1

7. Number of outstanding requests where agency failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for the financial year 2009-2010 and financial year 2010-2011.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Financial year</b>	<b>Number of requests</b>
DIISRTE	2009-2010	NIL
DIISRTE	2010-2011	NIL
AIATSIS	2009-2010	NIL
AIATSIS	2010-2011	NIL
AIMS	2009-2010	NIL
AIMS	2010-2011	NIL
ANSTO	2009-2010	NIL
ANSTO	2010-2011	2
ARC	2009-2010	NIL
ARC	2010-2011	NIL
CSIRO	2009-2010	NIL
CSIRO	2010-2011	NIL
IP Australia	2009-2010	NIL
IP Australia	2010-2011	NIL

8. Number of requests received by each agency for this financial year to date

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Requests received</b>
DIISRTE	34
AIATSIS	1
AIMS	NIL
ANSTO	7
ARC	5
CSIRO	32
IP Australia	252

9. Number of requests have been denied and granted by each agency for this financial year to date.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Denied</b>	<b>Granted</b>
DIISRTE	8	15
AIATSIS	NIL	1
AIMS	NIL	NIL
ANSTO	NIL	3
ARC	NIL	3
CSIRO	11	16
IP Australia	9	202

10. Number of requests where agency failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for this financial year to date.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of requests</b>
DIISRTE	NIL
AIATSIS	NIL
AIMS	NIL
ANSTO	3
ARC	NIL
CSIRO	NIL
IP Australia	1

11. Number of outstanding requests which have failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act during current financial year to date.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Number of outstanding requests</b>
DIISRTE	NIL
AIATSIS	NIL
AIMS	NIL
ANSTO	1
ARC	NIL
CSIRO	NIL
IP Australia	NIL

12. Conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009, as part of the Government's FOI reforms. Therefore, no agency has issued a Conclusive Certificate for current financial year to date.

(Note: For answers to the above Questions 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7, information was obtained from the Annual Reports on the FOI Act published by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner. Where an Annual Report did not contain the required information, reference was made to the portfolio agency concerned).

Please also note – as this information is as at 29 February 2012 this does not include figures for Outcome 3 and associated Agencies which is transferring from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations due to the recent Machinery of Government.