

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: **AET 1090 - 1099**

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

Hansard Page: **Written**

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1090. Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
1091. What was the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
1092. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
1093. How many FOI requests did the Department receive for the financial year 2009-10 and 2010-11?
1094. For each financial year, how many requests were denied and how many were granted?
1095. Did the department fail to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
 - a. If so, how many?
 - b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
1096. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
1097. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
1098. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
 - a. If so, how many?
 - b. Do any of these requests remain outstanding?
1099. How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

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Answers:

1090. The Office of the Australian Information Commission has issued guidelines under s 93A of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*. On 24 June 2011, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided FOI Guidance Notes to all departments - http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/guidance_notes.cfm.
1091. The total cost to the department in processing FOI requests for the period 2009-2010 - \$544,703 and in 2010-2011 - \$1,293,874. This data is published in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* Annual Reports of 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.
1092. Costs are prepared at the end of each financial year and reported to the OAIC for inclusion in the OAIC FOI Annual Report. There are currently no figures available for this financial year.
1093. Treasury received 53 requests in the year 2009-10 and 148 requests in the year 2010-11 as per data published in the 2009-10 and 2010-11 FOI Annual Reports.
1094. The following action was taken on requests in 2009-10:
- 5 granted access in full
 - 19 granted access in part
 - 7 access refused or no documents located
 - 1 transferred in whole
 - 17 withdrawn (either by applicant or time lapsed)
 - 4 dealt with outside FOI Act
- The following action was taken on requests in 2010-11:
- 16 granted access in full
 - 59 granted access in part
 - 26 access refused or no documents located
 - 4 transferred in whole
 - 41 withdrawn (either by applicant or time lapsed)
 - 2 on hold pending advice from applicant
1095. As published in the 2009-2010 FOI Annual Report, Treasury met all statutory processing times. As published in the 2010-11 FOI Annual Report, Treasury did not meet the statutory processing times for 3 FOI requests. These requests have now been finalised.
1096. Treasury received 104 requests from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011.

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1097. The following action was taken on requests from 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011:
- 2 granted access in full
 - 23 granted access in part
 - 26 access refused or no documents located
 - 3 transferred in whole
 - 29 withdrawn (either by applicant or time lapsed)
 - 21 active requests
1098. Treasury has met all statutory processing times outlined in the FOI Act for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 December 2011.
1099. Nil. The power to issue conclusive certificates under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* was abolished on 7 October 2009.