

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Freedom of Information

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-183

1. Has the Department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
2. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
3. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date?
4. How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted?
5. Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests?
If so, how many and why?
6. Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?
How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this financial year to date?

ANSWER

1. In March 2012, ASQA received advice from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) via its Govdex forum about how the OAIC responded to a particular FOI request sent to all Australian Government agencies. No guidance was provided to the department or the other agencies for the period 1 March to 31 May 2012.
2. Please refer to AI-229 for costs from 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012. Costs for 1 March to 31 May 2012 are provided in the following table.

Agency	1 March to 31 May 2012	Cost (\$)
DIISRTE	2011-2012	\$58,799
AIATSIS	2011-2012	Nil
AIMS	2011-2012	Nil
ANSTO	2011-2012	\$18,299
ARC	2011-2012	\$1,212
ASQA	2011-2012	\$18,228
CSIRO	2011-2012	\$56,920
IP Australia	2011-2012	\$80,000
TEQSA	2011-2012	\$2,063

3. Please refer to AI-229 for number of FOI requests from 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012. Requests for 1 March to 31 May 2012 are provided in the following table.

Agency	1 March to 31 May 2012	Requests received
DIISRTE	2011-2012	32
AIATSIS	2011-2012	Nil
AIMS	2011-2012	Nil
ANSTO	2011-2012	2
ARC	2011-2012	2
ASQA	2011-2012	12
CSIRO	2011-2012	11
IP Australia	2011-2012	90
TEQSA	2011-2012	4

4. Please refer to AI-229 for number of FOI requests denied and granted from 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012. Requests for 1 March to 31 May 2012 are provided in the following table.

Agency	1 March to 31 May 2012	Denied	Granted
DIISRTE	2011-12	7	7
AIATSIS	2011-12	0	0
AIMS	2011-12	0	0
ANSTO	2011-12	0	3
ARC	2011-12	0	2
ASQA	2011-12	4	6
CSIRO	2011-12	0	10
IP Australia	2011-12	0	96
TEQSA	2011-12	0	4

5. Please refer to AI-229 for number of times that the Department and agencies failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act from 1 July 2011 to 29 February 2012. Requests for 1 March to 31 May 2012 are provided in the following table.

Agency	1 March to 31 May 2012	Number of times
DIISRTE	2011-12	0
AIATSIS	2011-12	0
AIMS	2011-12	0
ANSTO	2011-12	1
ARC	2011-12	0
ASQA	2011-12	2
CSIRO	2011-12	0
IP Australia	2011-12	0
TEQSA	2011-12	0

6. Please refer to AI-229 for number of outstanding requests which failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act from 1 July to 29 February 2012. Requests for 1 March to 31 May 2012 are provided in the following table.

Agency	Number of outstanding requests and why?
DIISRTE	0
AIATSIS	0
AIMS	0
ANSTO	1 - Extensive request and ongoing discussions with OAIC with respect to processing tranches.
ARC	0
ASQA	0
CSIRO	0
IP Australia	0
TEQSA	0

Conclusive certificates were abolished on 7 October 2009, as part of the Government's FOI reforms.