

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW0533_12

Senator Back provided in writing.

Question

Freedom of Information

"Has the Department/agency received any advice on how to respond to FOI requests? How many FOI requests has the Department received for the year 2010-11? How many have been granted or denied? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for the year 2010-11? How many FOI requests has the Department received for this FYTD? How many have been granted or denied? How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests for this FYTD?"

Answer

Yes. The department has received advice from the then Cabinet Secretary Senator the Hon John Faulkner in April 2009 and from the Minister for Privacy and Freedom of Information the Hon Brendon O'Connor MP in October 2010, as well as guidelines issued by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

The Department has also, from time to time, obtained legal advice in relation to individual FOI applications.

1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011	
<i>Requests being processed as at 1 July 2010</i>	43
Total requests received	370
Outcomes	
Full release	157
Partial release	72
Refused	32
Other	
Withdrawn	95
Transferred	8
Conclusive certificates	0
<i>Requests being processed as at 30 June 2011</i>	49

1 July 2011 – 30 September 2011	
<i>Requests being processed as at 1 July 2011</i>	49
Total requests received	107
Full release	52
Partial release	16
Refused	10
Withdrawn	30
Transferred	2
Conclusive certificates	0
<i>Requests being processed as at 30 September 2011</i>	46