

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-13**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Australian National Audit Office

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** 55

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Tuesday, 2 April 2013

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

- a. Has the department/agency received any updated advice on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b. What is the total cost to the department to process FOI requests for this financial year to date?
- c. How many FOI requests has the Department received for this financial year to date? How many requests have been denied and how many have been granted? Has the department failed to meet the processing times outlined in the FOI Act for any requests? If so, how many and why? Do any of these requests remain outstanding? If so, how many and why?

**Answer:**

- a. Not applicable.
- b. The Auditor-General is exempt from *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.
- c. For the YTD ending 31 January 2013, the ANAO received two FOI requests. While the Auditor-General is exempt from the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, requests for information on administrative matters are considered as general requests. A general request sought administrative information but the request was denied as it related to information covered by the *Health Records (Privacy and Access) Act 1997*.

A second request related to correspondence between the Australian National Audit Office and a Commonwealth Agency regarding a potential audit topic was not granted.