

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Estimates 24-28 February 2014

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1 Prime Minister and Cabinet

Topic: FOI – requests for extensions

Senator: Senator the Hon Penny Wong

Question reference number: 75

Type of Question: Written

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Question:

How many FOI requests has (a) the Department and (b) the Office of the Prime Minister received since 18 September 2013? Of these, how many extensions of time in relation to FOI processing have been sought from the Australian Information Commissioner since 18 September 2013 by (a) the Department and (b) the Office of the Prime Minister? How many have been granted?

Answer:

In the period 18 September 2013 to 28 February 2014:

- the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received 80 FOI requests;
- the Prime Minister received 35 FOI requests.

The Department would need to review the records for all 115 requests covered by the period to identify the number of extensions of time sought from, and granted by, the Australian Information Commissioner. This would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.