

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Standing Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Budget Estimates 2010–11

Portfolio: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Department/Agency: Office of the Privacy Commissioner**

**Topic:** Senate questions on Budget Estimates hearings

**Senator:** Barnett

**Question reference number:** PM 66

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 9 July 2010

**Number of pages:** 1

**PM 66 – Freedom of Information – All Departments and Agencies – Senator Barnett**

- a) Has the department/agency received any advice from the Government or any other source on how to respond to FOI requests?
- b) How many FOI requests has the department received?
- c) How many have been granted or denied?
- d) How many conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI request?

**Answer**

- a) The Office received a letter from the then-Special Minister of State and Cabinet Secretary, Senator the Hon John Faulkner, in April 2009. A copy of that letter is available at [www.smos.gov.au/media/2009/docs/Letter\\_to\\_Secretaries\\_FOI.rtf](http://www.smos.gov.au/media/2009/docs/Letter_to_Secretaries_FOI.rtf).
- b) From 1 July 2009 to 23 May 2010, the Office has received 11 FOI requests. Information about the number of FOI requests received by the Office in previous years is available in the FOI Annual Reports, which are available at [www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/annual\\_reports.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/annual_reports.cfm).
- c) From 1 July 2009 to 23 May 2010, the Office has granted four requests in full and nine in part, and denied one. The reason that the number of requests finalised exceeds the number of requests received is that some of the requests finalised in 2009–10 were received in 2008–09. Information about the number of FOI requests granted or denied by the Office in previous years is available in the FOI Annual Reports, which are available at [www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/annual\\_reports.cfm](http://www.dpmc.gov.au/foi/annual_reports.cfm).
- d) No conclusive certificates have been issued in relation to FOI requests received by the Office. Conclusive certificates were abolished with the commencement of the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificates and Other Measures) Act 2009* (Cth) in October 2009.