

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2013-2014**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance and Deregulation

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

**Question reference number:** F84

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 12 July 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) No.
- b) The information for this financial year to date has not yet been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) on its website through its annual Freedom of Information agency statistics at <http://www.oaic.gov.au/>.
- c) The information for this financial year to date has not yet been collated. For the period from 1 July 2012 to 31 March 2013:
  - i. the Department has received 92 requests;
  - ii. access was refused to 20 requests and 39 requests were granted (21 in full and 18 in part);
  - iii. the Department did not meet the processing times set out in the FOI Act for 2 requests due to internal delays. Neither of those requests remains outstanding.

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Australian Electoral Commission

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) Yes. The AEC regularly receives information from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner in dealing with FOI requests.
- b) Information on the costs of processing FOI requests by the AEC will be included in the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner report on FOI agency statistics which is published after the end of each financial year.
- c) For the period 1 July 2012 to 31 May 2013 the AEC has received eleven FOI requests. Two FOI requests were withdrawn. Two FOI requests were granted access in full. Three FOI requests were granted access with deletions. One FOI request was processed 10 days late due to the volume of documents involved. Four FOI requests were outstanding at the end of 31 May 2013.

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**Department/Agency:** ComSuper

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**Answer:**

- a) No.
- b) The information for this financial year has not been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the OAIC on its website through its annual statistical reporting.
- c) Some 164 FOI requests were received for the period 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013. Two requests were denied, 12 requests were partially granted, 140 requests were granted in full, four requests were withdrawn or treated as withdrawn by the applicants and six requests were under consideration as at 30 April 2013. Due to the complexity of the relevant matters, three cases (since completed) took more than the prescribed time to finalise.

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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Senator:** Ryan

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**Answer:**

- a) Yes.
- b) \$10,954.
- c) Five requests: one withdrawn; one not subject to the FOI Act; one fully granted; one granted in part; one refused.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
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**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Future Fund Management Agency

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

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**Answer:**

- a) Yes. The Agency receives guidance from the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and advice from external legal providers as required.
- b) The information for this financial year has not been collated. An estimate of the total cost for 2012-13 will be made available by the OAIC on its website through its annual statistical reporting.
- c) For the period 1 July 2012 to 30 April 2013, the agency has received two FOI requests. One has been granted and one identified no relevant documents. All processing times have been met.