

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2013**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Freedom of Information**

Question: **119**

Written **Senator Ryan**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 12 July 2013

- 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) DPS has not attributed any costs to processing FOI requests in this financial year to 31 March 2013.
- c) DPS has received nine FOI requests this financial year to 31 March 2013:
 - Two requests were granted;
 - Six requests were denied because DPS was not in possession of or did not hold the information;
 - One request was deemed to be withdrawn following notice of intention to refuse (practical refusal reason);
 - DPS acknowledged and responded to the requests within the required timeframes.