

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Department of Finance and Deregulation

Supplementary Estimates Hearing – October 2010

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: FOI Requests

Question reference number: F57

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 3 December 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Bernardi asked:

- 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 requests?
- e) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?
- f) Has the Department/agency received any FOI requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book')? If yes, when and will it be released?

Answer:

The timeframe used to respond to this question is 27 May 2010 (May Budget Estimates) to 19 October 2010.

- a) The Finance and Deregulation (Finance) Portfolio has received general advice, information and training offered by the Office of the Australian Government Solicitor, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner.

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b)&c) The following table provides details of FOI requests received by the Finance portfolio.

Agency	No. of FOI requests received	No. granted	No. refused
Department of Finance	26	3 released in full 2 released in part	3
AEC	3	2	1
ComSuper	75 3 withdrawn 1 under consideration	71	0
Future Fund	1	1	0

- d) None. The power to issue conclusive certificates was removed in October 2009 by the *Freedom of Information (Removal of Conclusive Certificate and Other Measures) Act 2009*.
- e)
- (i) The Department received three requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Red Book'). A redacted version of the brief was publicly released on its internet site on 1 October 2010.
 - (ii) The question is not applicable to the AEC, ComSuper or the Future Fund.
- f)
- (i) The Department did not receive any requests for its Incoming Government Brief ('Blue Book').
 - (ii) The question is not applicable to the AEC, ComSuper or the Future Fund.