

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 15 October 2012

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(SE12/0113) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Humphries (written) asked:

Portfolio wide - Freedom of Information: In 2011-12 and this financial year to date: How many FOI requests did the department/agency receive? How many requests were denied and how many were 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:

For the 2011-12 financial year the department received 12 328 FOI requests.

The 12 563 FOI requests finalised by the department for the 2011-12 financial year (9 024 Access and 3 539 Amendment) have been actioned as follows:

Requests for access to documents:

- 5 109 (56.6%) were granted in full;
- 2 885 (32.0%) were granted in part;
- 790 (8.8%) were refused in full; and
- 240 (2.6%) were withdrawn or transferred to another agency.

Requests for amendment to personal information:

- 1 883 (53.2%) records were altered;
- 712 (20.1%) records were annotated; and
- 944 (26.7%) were refused or withdrawn.

For requests due in 2011-12, the department finalised 85.1% of requests within 30 days.

The department finalises requests outside the 30 day time period that still meet the statutory requirements of the FOI Act. Finalisation outside the 30 day time period is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.

The department had a total of 941 cases on hand as at 30 June 2012. Of these 282 requests were outside the legislative timeframe. This is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.

For the 2012-13 financial year to 30 September 2012 the department has received 3 068 FOI requests.

The 2 933 FOI requests finalised by the department for the 2012-13 financial year to 30 September 2012 (2 189 Access and 744 Amendment) have been actioned as follows:

Requests for access to documents:

- 1 192 (54.5%) were granted in full;
- 771 (35.2%) were granted in part;
- 138 (6.3%) were refused in full; and
- 88 (4.0%) were withdrawn or transferred to another agency.

Requests for amendment to personal information:

- 429 (57.7%) records were altered;
- 116 (15.6%) records were annotated; and
- 199 (26.7%) were refused or withdrawn.

For requests due in the 2012-13 financial year to 30 September 2012, the department finalised 88.4% of requests within 30 days.

The department finalises requests outside the 30 day time period that still meet the statutory requirements of the FOI Act. Finalisation outside the 30 day time period is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.

The department had a total of 1 024 cases on hand as at 30 September 2012. Of these, 239 requests were outside of the legislative timeframe. This is as a result of the size and/or complexity of these requests.