

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

Question Taken on Notice

Question Number: 1.11

Output Number: Opening Statement

Date: 10/06/2025

From: Ms Selena Uiibo

To: Hon Lia Finocchiaro

Portfolio: Chief Minister

Agency: Ombudsman's Office

Subject: **Number of freedom of information requests rejected**

QUESTION:

Of the 160 freedom of information requests by your office in the reporting period for Estimates, how many have been rejected?

ANSWER:

The freedom of information (FOI) request function is managed in the first instance by the public sector organisation that holds the information under request. The Information Commissioner has the role of dealing with complaints about agency responses to FOI applications and enquiries regarding making or progressing a FOI application, not in handling the requests themselves.

The office received 160 approaches regarding FOI in the reporting period 1st July 2024 to 31st March 2025.

As part of end of year reporting we collect information from public sector organisations about the number of FOI matters they have handled and the outcomes of those matters, including if access to the requested information has been provided in part, in full or refused. The summary of this information will be included in our annual report and will be tabled following its completion in August, it is not available at this time.