

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Program 1.6

Question No. 16

Senator Brandis asked the following question at the hearing on 23 May 2012:

Senator BRANDIS: Once again, that makes perfect sense to me. Mr Wilkins, can you help us here? What was the date of the Attorney-General's decision to have this review [of three people smuggling crew prosecutions]?

Mr Wilkins: I am not sure.

Senator BRANDIS: Surely that could be identified in a reasonably swift way?

Mr Wilkins: Yes, I think so. We will have to take it on notice. We know the date it was announced, but the date on which it was decided—

Senator BRANDIS: The date on which it was announced will do me for the present purpose. What is the date it was announced?

Mr Wilkins: It was announced on 2 May, apparently.

Senator BRANDIS: On 2 May this year?

Mr Wilkins: Yes.

Senator BRANDIS: That will do me for the moment. I am going to surmise that the decision was made shortly before 2 May, though I will not confine you to a date. If you could ascertain the date for me overnight that would be useful.

Mr Wilkins: Sure.

Senator BRANDIS: Of the communications from the Indonesian authorities here in Canberra to which you have referred, how many have been since 2 May?

Mr I Anderson: I will have to take that on notice.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

On 24 April 2012, the Attorney-General made the decision to request the Attorney-General's Department to proceed with the review of convicted crew where age was raised as an issue at some stage.

Of the communications from the Indonesian authorities in Canberra, five have occurred since 2 May 2012 (as at 23 May 2012).