

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

**Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0152\_14**

**Senator Carr asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 5**

**Question**

**FOI consultation with Ministers with release of 2010 books**

Senator KIM CARR: When you released the 2010 books, was there any consultation with ministers? Ms Paul: I cannot remember. Senator KIM CARR: You cannot remember. Ms Paul: I cannot remember. I would have to take it on notice. I would not have done the consultation myself. I am happy to take it on notice. Senator KIM CARR: Yes. Mr Storen, you were the FOI officer then, weren't you? Mr Storen: No, I would have been in the role of chief finance officer. Senator KIM CARR: Okay. Who was the FOI officer at the time, in 2010? Mr Storen: The decision maker would most likely have been our chief legal officer. Senator KIM CARR: Who was that? Ms Paul: Mr Kriz. Senator KIM CARR: Here he is. It has been a while, Mr Kriz, since we have talked to each other in this capacity. Do you recall the release of the 2010 blue books and red books? Mr Kriz: I recall it, but as to detail I will have to see. Senator KIM CARR: Was there any consultation with the minister at the time? Ms Paul: With the minister? I thought you were talking about consultation with applicants. Senator KIM CARR: No, with the minister. I thought Mr Storen said— Ms Paul: I thought you were talking about the consultation process we have been going through with applicants— Senator KIM CARR: We will get to that as well. Ms Paul: to narrow the form of the request. Senator KIM CARR: Sure. Pg. 6 Mr Kriz: We would have to check the records, but the normal process in relation to significant requests such as those is to consult widely, including with the ministers. But the decision is taken within the department by the authorised officers. Senator KIM CARR: That is right. Was there a consultation with the applicants in 2010? Mr Kriz: I would have to see. It depends on the request—the breadth of it and so on. Ms Paul: We had a number of them then too, so each of them is different. It depends on how it is phrased and so on. You have to look at each application.

**Answer**

In relation to the Freedom of Information (FOI) requests received for the 2010 books, the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations did consult with the relevant Ministers and FOI applicants.