

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Enhancing Whistleblower Protections) Bill 2017

2017 - 2018

**Division/Agency:** Financial System Division  
**Topic:** Expert Panel's deliberations  
**Reference:** Hansard page 63 (6 March 2018)  
**Senator:** Rex Patrick

**Question:**

Senator PATRICK: What was the medium used to transmit the outcome of the expert panel's deliberations? Was it written?

Ms Mills: There is some information that was made available to the minister in writing about the totality of the consultative processes, which included the expert panel process, in the ordinary way.

Senator PATRICK: You may want to take this on notice, but can I ask you to table that advice. You may wish to claim public interest immunity, but, on notice, can you table that for the committee's benefit.

Ms Mills: I will have to take that question on notice.

**Answer:**

The expert panel (Panel) did not provide written feedback to the Minister regarding the exposure draft Bill. The Panel provided oral feedback on the draft Bill (which included comments in support of measures in that draft), in a series of meetings. Panel feedback and feedback received from members of the public via the exposure draft consultation process led to a number of amendments being made subsequently to the exposure draft, that were incorporated in the Bill tabled in the Senate on 7 December 2017. Consequently there is no expert panel advice in writing that can be provided in response to the question on notice.