



THE SENATE

LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS REFERENCES COMMITTEE

25 October 2016

Mr Justin Gleeson SC
Solicitor-General
Commonwealth of Australia
3-5 National Circuit,
Barton ACT 2600

Dear Mr Gleeson,

Re: Inquiry into the nature and scope of consultations prior to the making of the Legal Services Amendment (Solicitor-General Opinions) Direction 2016

I am writing in response to your letter of 24 October 2016 concerning the questions on notice that were forwarded to you by the committee secretariat after your appearance at the public hearing for this inquiry on 14 October 2016. I should note in relation to your query about whether the questions on notice had been approved by the committee, that individual senators may ask questions on notice relevant to an inquiry without prior approval.

The committee notes your objection to answering the questions, supported by Privilege Resolution 1 (9), on the grounds that these questions are not relevant to the terms of reference and necessary for the purposes of the inquiry. The committee has resolved it will not insist upon answers, given that many of the questions cover ground that has been discussed at length at the public hearing, and as a result of the large number of questions which were asked. The questions on notice, your response, and this correspondence, will be published on the committee website.

The committee thanks you for the evidence you provided to the inquiry through your submission and attendance at the public hearing.

Yours sincerely

Senator Louise Pratt
Committee Chair