



**Australian Government**  
**Office of Parliamentary Counsel**

**First Parliamentary Counsel**

**Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the nature and scope of the consultations prior to the making of the Legal Services Amendment (Solicitor-General Opinions) Direction 2016: answers to questions on notice**

**Question No. 1**

**Senator Watt asked the following question at the hearing on 5 October 2016**

Who exactly from the Attorney-General's Department instructed the Office of Parliamentary Counsel to draft the Direction?

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

I consider that the Department is better placed to answer this question, and have transferred the question to the Department with the consent of the Committee Secretary. I understand that the Department is happy to take this question.

**Question No. 2**

**Senator Watt asked the following question at the hearing on 5 October 2016**

Did you or your office raise concerns that the Solicitor-General was not consulted as these changes were being drafted?

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

The Attorney-General has written to the Committee to make a claim for public interest immunity in relation to this matter.

**Question No. 3**

**Senator Watt asked the following question at the hearing on 5 October 2016**

Did you or your office ask the Attorney-General's Department whether they had consulted the Solicitor-General?

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

The Attorney-General has written to the Committee to make a claim for public interest immunity in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Peter Quiggin PSM  
First Parliamentary Counsel  
20 October 2016