



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