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**From:** Gartmann, Petra [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 March 2016 2:23 PM  
**To:** Puckridge, Robert  
**Cc:** Faulkner, James; Loughton, Gavin (AGS); Murphy, Jeffrey; Mills, Andrew; Jordan, Chris  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Attorney-General's direction under the Judiciary Act [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Robert

Unfortunately I am unable to give you a timeframe. However, the Solicitor-General's office is aware of the timing constraints.

Regards  
Petra Gartmann  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Puckridge, Robert  
**Sent:** Saturday, 5 March 2016 2:44:48 PM  
**To:** Gartmann, Petra  
**Cc:** Faulkner, James; Loughton, Gavin (AGS); Murphy, Jeffrey; Mills, Andrew; Jordan, Chris  
**Subject:** Re: Possible Attorney-General's direction under the Judiciary Act [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Petra

Thank you for looking at this during the weekend. It is much appreciated.

Do you have any sense of the timeframe for the S-G's Office?

Robert Puckridge  
Assistant Commissioner  
Tax Counsel Network  
02 6216 1929: [REDACTED]

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**From:** Gartmann, Petra [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 05, 2016 02:26 PM  
**To:** Faulkner, James, Puckridge, Robert  
**Subject:** RE: Possible Attorney-General's direction under the Judiciary Act [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Sensitive: Legal  
Dear Robert

As discussed, I have referred your request to Megan Caristo, Counsel Assisting the Solicitor-General and provided her with your below email.

Legal work involving constitutional law issues is tied to AGS and the Attorney-General's Department under the Legal Services Directions 2005. Constitutional work is tied because constitutional issues have significance for the whole-of-government, not just the responsible agency, requiring a coherent and coordinated approach. I note my earlier advice to you that I have formed the view this request for advice is tied.

Regards

Petra Gartmann  
Assistant Secretary  
Legal Services Policy Branch (incorporating the Office of Legal Services Coordination)  
Attorney-General's Department

[Redacted] | W: [www.ag.gov.au/olsc](http://www.ag.gov.au/olsc)<<http://www.ag.gov.au/olsc>>

From: Faulkner, James  
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2016 8:09 PM  
To: Puckridge, Robert  
Cc: Loughton, Gavin (AGS); Murphy, Jeffrey; Mills, Andrew; Jordan, Chris; Gartmann, Petra  
Subject: RE: Possible Attorney-General's direction under the Judiciary Act [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]

Robert

As discussed, I have forwarded your request to the Office of Legal Services Coordination.

Regards

JF

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From: Puckridge, Robert  
Sent: Friday, 4 March 2016 4:47:19 PM  
To: Faulkner, James  
Cc: Loughton, Gavin (AGS); Murphy, Jeffrey; Mills, Andrew; Jordan, Chris  
Subject: Possible Attorney-General's direction under the Judiciary Act [DLM=Sensitive:Legal]  
James

On behalf of the Commissioner of Taxation I am formally requesting your agreement to his obtaining independent legal advice as to his legal obligations if the Attorney-General was to give directions under the Judiciary Act that the Commissioner not intervene in the matter currently before the High Court concerning the constitutional validity of the Western Australian legislation dealing with the Bell Group of companies. In the first instance we would seek the advice from the Solicitor-General.

The advice would be sought in the context of the Commissioner's obligations as an independent statutory officeholder entrusted with the administration of Commonwealth income tax laws and the collection of income tax debts.

Robert Puckridge  
Assistant Commissioner  
Tax Counsel Network  
02 6216 1929 : [Redacted]

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