

Senator Jana Stewart
 Chair
 Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Chair

I write to you concerning the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee public hearing for the Inquiry into the Freedom of Information Amendment Bill 2025 [Provisions] on Friday, 17 October 2025.

In my capacity as Deputy Secretary of Legal Group for the Department of Home Affairs, I gave evidence to the Senate. Upon review of the Hansard record, I have become aware of the need to correct a response I made to a question from Senator Lambie.

The particular reference for correction is on page 10 in response to Senator Lambie's question:

"Question: What's the average processing time across all of the requests?"

A part of my response to this question was:

"Answer:Up to August 2025, so for the last financial year, it was about 99 days for all...."

This response contained a factual inaccuracy and I am providing the following correction of evidence in response to this question:

....In August 2025, it was 99 days for all.

Further, in response to Senator Lambie's questions about the 'default 30 days' on page 10, my answer was:

"Answer: Yes, that's the compliance with the statutory timeframe – 37 per cent for the financial year."

I would add to that response that there are provisions in the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* that mean the statutory timeframe is, on occasion, longer than 30 days.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this clarification, which will ensure that correct information has been provided to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Brooke Hartigan
 Deputy Secretary
 Legal Group

30 October 2025