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**Questions on Notice to ONI**

**PJCIS Inquiry into Royal Commission Legislation Amendment  
(Protections for Providing Information Bill) 2026**

- 1. Does ONI take any responsibility for upskilling the workforce of the National Intelligence Community to navigate the legal obligations and rights they have in relation to voluntary and authorised disclosure**

Each agency is responsible for seeking their own legal advice and delivering associated legal training.

- 2. Were you disclosing information to the Royal Commission prior to arrangements being finalised? If so, how were you risk-managing the process?**

ONI has disclosed material where it was required to do so by the Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (the Royal Commission), including some material prior to finalisation of the Intelligence Information Protection Arrangement.

ONI carefully reviewed documents sought, considered legal advice and consulted where appropriate.

- 3. What did you see as the main risks?**

ONI complied with relevant laws and regulations and considered implications to national security and international relations.

- 4. Have the NIC agencies already had discussions with one another about standardising or coordinating their approach for engaging with the Royal Commission?**

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for coordinating the Commonwealth's interactions with the Royal Commission. ONI has participated in Commonwealth meetings relating to the Royal Commission.

- 5. If so, has ONI led these discussions?**

No.

- 6. Do you anticipate that it will be possible for ONI to share information pertaining to other NIC agencies with the Royal Commission?**
  - A. Could they do so without having to inform that agency?**
  - B. What about foreign intelligence partners?**

ONI's ability to lawfully share information with the Royal Commission pertaining to other NIC agencies, and whether ONI would need to inform agencies or partners, could

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depend on the application of secrecy offences and other arrangements. Secrecy offences can differ between agencies.

- 7. Have there already been internal conversations about how IGIS would navigate situations with the Royal Commissioner where there is disagreement about whether a piece of information can be shared or not?**

ONI cannot speak on behalf of the IGIS.

- 8. Please provide your understanding of how you would resolve that with the Royal Commission and who you believe would ultimately get the final say on determining what can be disclosed?**

The Commissioner of the Royal Commission would determine public interest immunity matters after considering evidence from the Commonwealth. Other matters may be resolved via negotiation.

- 9. What is the agency currently doing or what does it plan to do to message to staff about collaborating with the Royal Commission?**

ONI has issued all staff communication to advise of a disposal freeze issued by the National Archives of Australia for records relevant to the Royal Commission. ONI also intends to provide all staff messaging about collaborating with the Royal Commission.

- 10. Are you explaining their rights to them and telling them how they can voluntarily disclose information? Can you give some examples of how this is being done?**

ONI will provide guidance of this type as part of the all-staff messaging.

- 11. What systems and processes will be in place for someone to make voluntary disclosures? Will there be dedicated secure networks or messaging systems so officials can communicate directly with the Royal Commission without fear of colleagues being aware of that communication?**

ONI staff (current or former) who wish to make a voluntary disclosure are able to engage directly with the Royal Commission. The Royal Commission has listed its contact details publicly.

- 12. If this Bill were not to pass, can you give me some examples of the sorts of information you would have to withhold or which officials in your agency may feel unable to participate in the Royal Commission?**

An example is information informed by communications intercepted under the *Telecommunications (Interception and Access) Act 1979* (Cth).

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**13. Do you anticipate former members of staff wishing to make disclosures, if so how will that be facilitated?**

Please see our response to question 11.

**14. How is collaboration and sharing from with the NIC with the Royal Commission going to differ from the work that was being done with Dennis Richardson prior to the Royal Commission being established?**

ONI has sought to cooperate fully with both inquiries, acknowledging administratively there are differences.

**15. Were there pieces of information the NIC wouldn't have provided Mr. Richardson that they will now provide the Royal Commission?**

No.