

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON A NATIONAL INTEGRITY COMMISSION
5 JULY 2017 PUBLIC HEARING
QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Question No. 1

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 5 July 2017:

I am interested in the extent to which [the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission] may be able to provide us with data about their public sector corruption caseload. Is that information available to Attorney-General's?

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

The department provided the Committee with information relating to this question during the Committee's panel hearing on 5 July 2017. The department's evidence included the following:

...the Australian Institute of Criminology [which is co-located and works closely with the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission], notes public perceptions assessments which indicate Australia is perceived to be one of the least corrupt countries globally. Apart from some isolated case studies in general assessments of the extent of such risks, most official data does not indicate the extent of serious and organised crime group involvement in cases within their jurisdiction. In comparison with volume crime statistics, administrative data on reported corruption in the Australian public sector shows few identified complaints each year, and there was little identification of serious and organised crime gang involvement in those public sector corruption allegations investigated.

Question No. 2

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 5 July 2017:

How long would that review [of the jurisdiction and capabilities of Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity (ACLEI) and the Fraud and Anti-Corruption Centre (FAC) under the Open Government National Action Plan] take?

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

The review of the jurisdiction and capabilities of ACLEI and the FAC Centre under the National Action Plan is scheduled to begin in early 2018. The review will occur in the context of the public consultation to develop Australia's second National Action Plan. Under the Open Government Partnership guidelines, the second Plan is due to be completed by 30 June 2018.)_

Question No. 3

Senator Kakoschke-Moore asked the following question at the hearing on 5 July 2017:

What was the time difference between Australia announcing its intention to join [the Open Government Partnership] and the first National Action Plan being delivered or drafted?

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

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet provided the answer to this question during the panel session of the public hearing on 5 July 2017. The former Labor Government announced its intention to join the Open Government Partnership in May 2013. The Turnbull Government formally joined in November 2015, and Australia's first National Action Plan was approved by Government on 7 December 2016.

Question No. 4

Senator Collins asked the following questions at the hearing on 5 July 2017:

Are there any developments in the freedom of information space?

... Can you provide the committee with the detail of [Australia's Open Government National Action Plan commitments relating to freedom of information] on notice?

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

National Action Plan Commitment 3.1

Commitment 3.1 of Australia's Open Government National Action Plan requires Australia to ensure that its information management and access laws, policies and practices are modern and appropriate for the digital information age.

Pursuant to this commitment, the Attorney-General's Department will consult with stakeholders and develop a simpler and more coherent framework for managing and accessing government information that better reflects the digital era and is supported by efficient and effective policies and practices. This project will include information accessed under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*, the *Archives Act 1983* and, where relevant, the *Privacy Act 1988*.

The department has consulted with a broad range of stakeholders (government and non-government) to better understand how current information frameworks operate in practice and identify issues. Further consultation will take place as options for reform are developed.

Question No. 5

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 5 July 2017:

Given that you are at quite a preliminary stage there [in relation to the review of the FAC Centre and ACLEI scheduled for the beginning of 2018], but we are reporting in mid-August, is there any information arising out of that that could be made available to the Committee?

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

The 2018 review of ACLEI and the FAC Centre under the National Action Plan will focus on the jurisdiction and capabilities of these agencies to ensure they can focus on protecting Commonwealth agencies from risks of corruption. As noted in the response to Question 2, the review will take place in the context of the development of Australia's second National Action Plan, which is due by 30 June 2018.

Planning for the review is at a preliminary stage. At this point, there is no further information that the department can provide to the Committee on the review.