

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S PORTFOLIO

Program: 1.4 Justice Services

Question No. SBE16/050

Senator Wong asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2016:

Senator WONG: So the president wrote on 11 December. You cannot tell me in relation to how many positions.

CHAIR: I think that has been said.

Senator WONG: Is that right?

Mr Anderson: That is correct.

Senator WONG: So what happened then?

Mr Anderson: I will ask my colleague. He has a bit more information.

Dr Smrdel: I do not have precise dates for you, but what happens next is the department would brief the Attorney—

Senator WONG: We keep doing 'would'—did you or didn't you?

Dr Smrdel: I do not have the letter, so it is hard to say.

CHAIR: Again, can I just say to witnesses: you speak as you want to speak, and do not let any senator bully you into speaking in a way that you would not normally speak.

Senator WONG: I am not seeking to bully you; it is just if you say 'would' it becomes difficult to ascertain whether it did or did not occur.

CHAIR: That is a matter for a for a further question, not for telling the witness they cannot use the word.

Senator WONG: Did you or did you not?

Dr Smrdel: The department did brief the Attorney, attaching the president's letter.

Senator WONG: Are you able to give me an approximate date for that?

Dr Smrdel: I would need to take that on notice.

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

22 January 2016.