

Senate Community Affairs Committee
ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO
2014-15 Supplementary Estimates Hearings

Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs

Question No: 115

Topic: Freedom of Information

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ludwig asked:

Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?

1. If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:

- (a) The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
- (b) The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
- (c) The purpose of the consultation;
- (d) Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
- (e) Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
- (f) Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office "

Answer:

Ministers' Offices are informed of all new requests as they are received and are provided an opportunity to be consulted on proposed decisions. The Assistant Minister for Social Service's Office is consulted on all requests that relate to the Assistant Minister's portfolio responsibilities.

Parts a), b), c) and f) cannot be answered without unreasonable diversion of resources.

The Department does not seek extensions of time for the purposes of consultation with Ministers' Offices.