

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 533

Program No. 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 74 (29/5/2014)

Topic: Independent review

Senator Urquhart asked:

Senator URQUHART: Can you advise whether Mr Scales is on schedule to meet that date?

Mr Clarke: I can. He is.

Senator URQUHART: Great. Has Mr Scales been provided with access to any documents not previously made publicly available?

Mr Clarke: Yes.

Senator URQUHART: Can you provide a list of those documents?

Mr Clarke: Well, I will take that on notice. I think it is important for the record to say that Mr Scales does not have unfettered access to documents. Quite the contrary. He was not given powers to access material that is the subject of public interest immunity claims, including deliberative advice to Ministers and material that went to Cabinet. So there was a very explicit limitation on his access to papers. But, beyond that, he has certainly accessed papers, some of which I am sure would not currently be on the public record.

Senator URQUHART: If you can provide a list of those, that would be great.

Mr Clarke: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department understands that Mr Scales report when completed will include a bibliography of documents that he has referred.