

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 43**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 18/10/2016**

**Topic: Government's response – removal of restrictions on parallel importation of books**

**Senator Carr, Kim asked:**

1. Regarding the Government's response on 24 November 2015 to Competition Policy Review (the Harper Review), that it would remove restrictions on the parallel importation of books:
  - (a) Did the Department provide any input to this response? Please provide a detailed account of any input.
  - (b) What modelling or consultation has the Department undertaken on the potential effects of this proposal on the book industry's viability and on our national cultural production?
  - (c) Has the Department conducted any analysis of the potential effects of this proposal on innovation and on investment attraction in the book industry?

**Answer:**

1.
  - (a) The Department of Communications and the Arts input to the Australian Government's response to the Competition Policy Review is Cabinet-in-Confidence.
  - (b) The Department did not undertake consultation. However, the Productivity Commission undertook consultation and analysis as part of its examination of parallel importation restrictions on books in the context of its review of Australian intellectual property arrangements.
  - (c) No.