

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Cross Portfolio**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000277**

Senator Collins, Jacinta provided in writing.

***FOI***

**Question**

How many staff are in the Department's FOI team?

How many lawyers does the Department currently have on staff?

How much money was spent on legal advice from external law firms, including the AGS, on FOI matters in 2015-16, 2016-17?

Can you describe the level of support provided for FOI applications directly to Ministers offices?

**Answer**

- The Department of Education and Training does not have an Freedom Of Information (FOI) Team. FOI matters are handled by members of the Corporate Legal Team, which also has a range of other functions.
- As at 31 December 2016, the department had 32 Government Lawyers.
- \$6105.14 (GST inclusive) for the 2015–16 financial year and nil in 2016–17 to date.
- The department provides administrative assistance and advice to its Ministers' offices as required in respect of freedom of information requests directed to its Ministers.