

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EM1144_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Freedom of Information - Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act): 1. Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests? 2. If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information: a. The Department or Agency which was consulted; b. The document; 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 3. 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? 4. 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

The department's consultation practices are as set out in Questions on Notice EM0337_14 and EM0340_14 from the Additional Estimates hearing.

The details in this question are not collected, and would require the department to manually review each FOI request it has received, which would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.