

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2013–14  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio  
February 2014**

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| <b>Department</b>                | Parliamentary Budget Office     |
| <b>Topic</b>                     | Informal requests               |
| <b>Senator</b>                   | Senator Smith                   |
| <b>Question reference number</b> | 70                              |
| <b>Type of question</b>          | Hansard pg.17, 24 February 2014 |

**Question**

**Senator SMITH:** Mr Bowen, I am interested in understanding the full nature of the work of the PBO. If you are able to provide me with information about how many informal requests you are receiving, or meetings that officers may be having. I am assuming that the informal requests and discussions around possible costings are helping people frame official requests that they might make to the PBO. Is that accurate?

**Mr Bowen:** Yes, that is a very accurate description.

**Senator SMITH:** If possible, perhaps you could provide an indication of how many of those informal requests and discussions are happening—maintaining your independence.

**Answer**

Between the Supplementary Budget Estimates in November 2013 and the end of March 2014, the Parliamentary Budget Office (PBO) received 19 requests from parliamentarians with a total of 70 options and responded to 12 options in relation to eight requests.

During this period the PBO also received informal approaches from parliamentarians in relation to 72 possible requests of which 16 translated into formal requests.