

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

**Department/Agency:** Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

**Outcome/Program:**

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government agencies by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and inspecting statutory compliance by law enforcement agencies.

**Topic:** Resourcing

**Senator:** Senator Collins

**Question reference number:** 30

**Type of question:** FPA, Monday 26 May 2014, page 114

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 11 July 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS:** Okay. What concerns me in your case is that you are not only looking at an efficiency dividend scenario; you are also looking at adopting additional functions. For example, when the information commissioner was established, was there an adjustment in terms of the resourcing of the Commonwealth Ombudsman? You indicated you previously had dealt with some of those functions.

**Mr Neave:** My office dealt with them, yes. I was not there at that stage. I will need to have a look and take that as a question on notice to see what resources we lost that stage, if any. We may not have lost resources.

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS:** That would indeed be an ideal environment in some ways for the work that you would carry out. To lose functions but not lose revenue would be a dream, I would think, in your position.

**Mr Neave:** Yes. It is always quite a nice thought!

**Senator JACINTA COLLINS:** I will be interested to hear on notice whether that is actually what transpired since you took us through the history of efficiency dividends but perhaps not the history of changes in roles and function.

**Mr Neave:** I accept that, yes.

**Answer:**

There was no adjustment made to the appropriation of the office at the creation of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner