

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: RIS and post-implementation reviews

Senator: Senator Cory Bernardi

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Question:

CHAIR: How many regulatory impact statements and post-implementation reviews has OBPR overseen in the last three years?

...

CHAIR: Finally, I did ask at the start: how many PIRs have been undertaken over the last three years? Have you been able to get that information?

Mr McNamara: We might have to take that on notice.

CHAIR: I am interested in, basically, how many you have sent back and said, "You haven't met the review." You can take that on notice.

Answer:

In 2012-13, 14 Post-Implementation Reviews (PIRs) were completed and published, 64 decision-making stage Regulation Impact Statements (RISs) were assessed by the Office of Best Practise Regulation (OBPR) under the Australian Government RIS requirements in place at that time, and were published. In addition, under the COAG RIS requirements, 13 RISs for the consultation stage and 12 RISs for the decision-making stage were assessed by the OBPR and published.

In 2013-14, 10 PIRs were completed and published and 47 decision-making stage RISs were assessed by the OBPR under the Australian Government RIS requirements in place at that time and were published. In addition, under the COAG RIS requirements, seven decision-making RISs and seven consultation stage RISs were assessed by the OBPR and published.

In 2014-15, 25 PIRs were completed and published, 23 standard form and long form RISs and eight consultation RISs were assessed by the OBPR under the Australian Government RIS requirements and were published. In addition, under the COAG RIS requirements, six decision-making RISs and eight consultation stage RISs were assessed by the OBPR and published.

It is fairly typical that an agency would give the OBPR a draft PIR and that the OBPR would provide comments on the PIR in terms of what needs to change to meet best practice. The PIR process is very similar to the RIS process in that it is an interactive process and the OBPR encourages best practice in the standard of the documents.

The Post-Implementation Reviews Guidance Note provides further information on the assistance the OBPR provides to agencies during the PIR process to encourage agencies to produce PIRs that meet best practice.