

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 3

Question No. 71

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

1) Can you please expand how your comments in relation to the scrutiny and access to information in intelligence agencies, as you commented to The Guardian website on 4 February 2014 can be implemented?

i. Have you shared these views with government?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

The OAIC's view on this issue was expressed in a submission in December 2012 to the review conducted by Dr Allan Hawke AC into the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010* (see Part E at www.oaic.gov.au/news-and-events/submissions/foi-submissions/review-of-freedom-of-information-legislation). This view was restated in November 2013 in a letter to the Attorney-General about Dr Hawke's recommendations (see Attachment A at www.oaic.gov.au/news-and-events/statements/foi-statements/dr-allan-hawke-review-of-foi-and-aic-acts/hawke-review-advice-to-government).