



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

Secretary

24 February 2014

Senator the Hon Ian Macdonald
Chair
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Chair

Senate Estimates—Royal Commission into Home Insulation Program

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information to the Committee in clarification of matters discussed at today's Senate Estimates hearing about the Royal Commission into the Home Insulation Program.

The Attorney-General's Department is responsible for coordinating the Commonwealth's representation to the Royal Commission. This coordination function is necessary as the administration of the programs the subject of the Royal Commission was spread across a number of agencies, some of which no longer exist.

On 22 January 2014 the Commission delivered a summons to the "Proper Officer of the Commonwealth, C/ Australian Government Solicitor". The summons was returnable on 31 January 2014. The summons compelled the production of documents from a number of Departments including the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the then Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (and its successors), and the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (and its successors). Those Departments, not the Attorney-General's Department, are responsible for identifying documents they hold that may be relevant to the summons. In relation to Cabinet documents, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet is the relevant agency for the purposes of identifying relevant documents for the purposes of responding to the summons.

The Australian Government Solicitor is providing legal services to the Commonwealth in respect of its representation to the Royal Commission, and is coordinating the production of documents on behalf of the Commonwealth.

Yours sincerely

Roger Wilkins AO