

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. AE15/004

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2015:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Professor Triggs, could you detail for me all meetings you have had since 3 October with either the Attorney or officers of the Attorney-General's Department.

CHAIR: 3 October which year?

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Last year, Chair.

Prof. Triggs: I will have to take that on notice, because I would want to be absolutely precise in answering the question, but I think, from memory, infrequently; although we did have dealings with the office to arrange for the Attorney's speech at the Human Rights Awards on 10 December. So, if you are concerned about that period, we would in particular have been responding to the usual queries with the Attorney's staff with regard to the speech and the timing et cetera.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So the problem at the moment is partly because of how general my question is in terms of any officer of the department. Is that correct?

Prof. Triggs: I think it is very general. I really would need to take it on notice to be able to look at exactly which officers I had spoken to and how often those meetings took place, but it was certainly very infrequent in relation to the Attorney at that time.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Let's start at the top then. How many meetings have you have with the secretary?

CHAIR: The Secretary of?

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: A-GD.

Prof. Triggs: I would have to take it on notice. I think there might have been one, but that is all I can recall.

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

The President met with the Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department on 8 October 2014 (Sydney), 29 January 2015 (Canberra), and 3 February 2015 (Sydney).