

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/064**

**Senator Rhiannon asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearings:**

1. One of the key arguments raised by the government in support of its changes has been the delays experienced in the processing of cases by the OAIC. The government has argued that this highlights inadequacies in the organisation and thus it should be abolished. However, a number of witnesses to last year's inquiry argued that the delays associated with the OAIC processing cases were the result of underfunding from both Labor and Coalition governments.
  - a. Does OAIC have a view on the reasons for the OAIC's backlog in processing cases?
  - b. Has the OAIC offered a rationale for the backlog in its discussions with government?

**The Attorney-General's Department's answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

The question misstates the Government's view. The Government has not said that the Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 suggests inadequacies about the OAIC. Rather, the Bill seeks to improve administrative efficiencies by streamlining an unnecessarily complex system, which has led to duplication and delays.

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