

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/065**

**Senator Rhiannon asked the following written question at the hearing on 27 March 2015:**

1. In its report, the Senate Standing Committees on Legal and Constitutional Affairs noted that the committee did not receive evidence indicating that AAT review would necessarily be faster than review by the OAIC. On the contrary, the then FOI Commissioner Dr James Popple advised the committee that comparison of the FOI reviews dealt with since 2010 revealed that the AAT had taken almost exactly the same average time as the OAIC to resolve FOI cases.
  - a. Did the OAIC or Dr Popple advise the government of this?
  - b. If so, has the government explained its rationale for proceeding with the proposed changes to the OAIC?

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

- a. The Government is aware of Dr Popple's evidence to the Committee.
- b. The *Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014* corrects fundamental problems in the current regulatory system which led to duplication and delays.