

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/073**

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

1. On 16 July 2014, a statement appeared on the OAIC website called “How the OAIC will deal with IC reviews and FOI complaints until 31 December 2014”. The opening paragraph stated “The Australian Government announced as part of the 2014–15 Budget that the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) will be disbanded from 31 December 2014.” That did not eventuate. Please detail what has happened with regard to the OAIC?
  - a. When was OAIC advised it would not be disbanded?
  - b. Who provided this advice?
  - c. What has been the role of the OAIC since December 2014?

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

- a and b: At the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs hearing on 10 November 2014, the Australian Information Commissioner advised Senator Rhiannon that he was advised by the Government in the week before the Budget. (See page 31 of Hansard)
- c: The Acting Information Commissioner advised the Senate of the role of the OAIC since December 2014 at the hearing on 24 February 2015. (See pages 127-8 of Hansard)