

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. AE15/124**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 24 February and 27 March 2015 hearing:**

1. Is the Attorney-General aware of the comments of the Human Rights Commissioner, Mr Tim Wilson, on ABC's The Drum on 1 December 2014, in which he stridently defended the Abbott Government's budget and criticised the budget strategy of the previous Labor Government?
2. If so, has Mr Wilson's political advocacy of the Abbott Government's budget strategy "fatally compromised" the impartiality of the Australian Human Rights Commission?
3. Can the Attorney-General advise whether economic commentary or political advocacy are within the ambit of Mr Wilson's role as Human Rights Commissioner?

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

1. No.
2. No.
3. Mr Wilson is an independent statutory office holder appointed under the *Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986*.