

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

**Group: 2**

**Program: 1.1**

**Question No. BE15/104**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 27 and 28 May 2015 hearings:**

1. Has the AGD already taken responsibility for FOI policy and the development of FOI guidelines? What work has the Department performed in this regard? Has the AGD developed any new explanatory materials regarding the FOI Act? Has the AGD been working on changes to FOI guidelines?

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

In accordance with the Administrative Arrangements Order, the Attorney-General's Department is responsible for FOI policy. The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) is responsible for the FOI Guidelines. The OAIC advised at the Estimates hearing on 28 May 2015 that towards the end of 2014 it had updated 15 of the 17 chapters in the FOI Guidelines and it intends to complete a rewrite of the other two chapters within the next couple of months. The Department will continue to assess relevance of the Guidelines and other guidance material as part of its ongoing responsibility for FOI policy. The Department has not developed any new explanatory materials regarding the FOI Act.