

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

Group: 2

Program: Other Agency

Question No. SBE14/020

Senator O'Sullivan asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: When you alluded to having had a conversation with another minister, not the Attorney, in relation to your decision to conduct the inquiry into children in immigration detention, were you referring to the minister for immigration?

Prof. Triggs: Yes, I was; the then minister.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: It is to follow that you advised the minister for immigration of your intention to conduct an inquiry before you advised the Attorney, to whom you report as a department or as an entity?

Prof. Triggs: I think this letter indicates that I advised both the Attorney and the minister for immigration at the same time.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: So your assertion before that you had had conversations and had a discussion about it with another minister was meant to be all on the one day—22 January 2014?

Prof. Triggs: Again, I must take it on notice. But I know that over that summer period I had a meeting with Minister Scott Morrison, and I know the subject came up and we discussed it. I think it was not until within days of 22 January that the final determination would have been made. I certainly had discussions with Minister Scott Morrison and then, before the election, discussions with the two previous ministers of immigration.

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

The President of the Commission met with the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection the Hon Scott Morrison MP on 19 November 2013 and advised him that the Commission would conduct a 10 year review of *A last resort*?

The Minister and the Attorney-General were formally notified of the Inquiry, including the Inquiry's Terms of Reference, on 22 January 2014.