

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

**Group 2**

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. SBE14/204**

**Senator Collins asked the following written question from the 20 November and 11 December 2014 hearings.**

1. The Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill 2014 implements a measure announced in the Budget in May 2014. Why was legislation to give effect to this Budget measure not introduced until October?
2. When were drafting instructions for this legislation first given to the legislative drafters?
3. What will be the cost of the failure to implement this Budget measure by the planned date? Please break down by type of expenditure.
4. Where will the funding to meet these costs be drawn from? Will funding be withdrawn from any other area of the Attorney-General's portfolio to meet these costs?

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

1-2. The Department provided initial drafting instructions to the Office of Parliamentary Counsel in June 2014. Drafting and introduction of the Freedom of Information Amendment (New Arrangements) Bill occurred in accordance with the legislative prioritisation processes.

3-4. The cost implications from the continued operation of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner beyond 1 January 2015 will be determined as part of the Government's Budget processes.