

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Workplace Bullying

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-142

1. In or around April 2007, did the Chief of CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies, Graeme Woodrow, react to a complaint alleging breaches of commercial laws by assigning the person about whom the complaint had been made to work on CSIRO's response to the complaint? Was the person about whom the complaint had been made involved in coordinating CSIRO's response to the complaint?
2. Did Dr Woodrow's reaction to this complaint subsequently become the subject of a further complaint – if so, on what date and when and how did CSIRO act upon this subsequent complaint?

ANSWER

1. The Chief of CSIRO Molecular and Health Technologies did not assign responsibility for responding to a complaint alleging breaches of commercial laws to the person about whom the complaint had been made. The person about whom the complaint was made was asked to provide information to assist those co-ordinating the response to investigate the complaint and respond to it.
2. A complaint, covering a wide range of issues including this allegation, was received by CSIRO on 12 June 2007. CSIRO appointed an independent external investigator to investigate these complaints and these were investigated between June 2007 and September 2008. The investigation report was provided to CSIRO on 3 October 2008.