

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

Question No. 59

Senator Humphries asked the following question at the hearing on 30 May 2013:

Senator HUMPHRIES: But there wasn't a code of conduct investigation auspiced by AGD. In fact, it was an exchange of correspondence by email between you and Mr Smith.

Mr Wilkins: Whether you call that a code of conduct—it raises issues around conduct. Questions of conduct were raised about Mr Smith—he is sitting here on my left. There were questions; they were raised, some anonymously, some through correspondence of various sorts. It is, I think, an obligation of a portfolio secretary at least to raise those with him and say, 'Listen, I need an explanation of what is going on here.' Also, the board of CrimTrac had asked for an explanation.

Senator HUMPHRIES: I would have thought that after waiting four months for the answer [to the previous question on notice] it would have been clear and concise, and with respect it does not appear to be concise, does it?

Mr Wilkins: It is concise. I am not sure it is clear.

Senator HUMPHRIES: Okay, clear, accurate and concise.

Mr Wilkins: I am saying it is probably best if I give you the documents that constitute the actual investigation or inquiry or whatever you want to call it. You can then classify it as you wish. Senator HUMPHRIES: Were there any [CrimTrac] investigations subsequent to the 'investigation' that you just referred to, Mr Wilkins, that was settled by an exchange of correspondence?

Mr Wilkins: Apparently not. We will make this available to you, Senator.

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

Please refer to the reply provided in answer to Question No. 56.

