

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

Program SPCG

Question No. 73

Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:

- a. Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began? Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?
- b. How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?
- c. What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?
- d. Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?

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

a-c. The Ministers did return some documents to the Department once the caretaker period commenced, including some submissions, in accordance with caretaker conventions. To extract a separate record of the number of these documents and their specific dates would require an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.

d. No.