

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: Cross Outcome - Across Programs**

**Question No: 867**

**Topic: Freedom of Information - Consultations with other Departments, Agencies and the Minister**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Ludwig** asked:

1. Other than for the purposes of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, has the Department consulted or informed the Minister's office about Freedom of Information requests it has received?
2. If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:
  - a. The requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
  - b. The Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
  - c. The purpose of the consultation;
  - d. Whether an extension of time was sought from the applicant to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension;
  - e. Whether an extension of time was sought from the Information Commissioner to allow time for the consultation, including whether it was granted and the length of the extension; and
  - f. Whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office.

**Answer:**

1. Ministers are informed of all new requests as they are received.
2. The Department does not maintain statistics to enable responses to part a), b), c), or f) without unreasonable diversion of resources.
  - d) The Department does not seek extensions of time for the purposes of liaising with the Ministerial Offices.
  - e) N/A