

## Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 23-24 OCTOBER 2014 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

#### Department of Human Services

**Topic:** Freedom of Information – Consultation with Other Departments, Agencies and the Minister

**Question reference number:** HS 91

**Senator:** Ludwig

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 12 December 2014

**Number of pages:** 2

#### **Question:**

The following questions relate to requests made pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (the Act):

- a) Other than for the purpose of discussing a transfer under section 16 of the Act, does the Department consult or inform other Departments or Agencies when it receives Freedom of Information requests?
- b) If so, for each instance provide a table setting out the following information:
  - 1) the Department or Agency which was consulted;
  - 2) the document;
  - 3) the purpose of the consultation;
  - 4) 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; and
  - 5) 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.
- c) 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?
- d) If yes, provide a table setting out the following information:
  - 1) the requests with respect to which the Minister or Ministerial office was consulted;
  - 2) the Minister or Ministerial office which was consulted;
  - 3) the purpose of the consultation;
  - 4) 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;
  - 5) 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

- 6) whether any briefings (including formal briefs, email briefings and verbal briefings) were provided to the Minister's office.

**Answer:**

- a) – d) Refer to the answer to HS 136 from the 2014-15 Budget Estimates.