

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

**Division/Agency:** Australian Taxation Office

**Question No:** 266

**Topic:** Freedom of Information

**Reference:** Written (19 October 2016)

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

- 1) The ATO recently decided to refuse freedom of information requests made via the Right to Know website. When was this decision made, and why?
- 2) Who made the final decision to block requests from the Right to Know website?
- 3) Did the ATO consult with other departments, public servants outside the ATO or Ministers about the decision?
- 4) Who did the ATO consult about the decision?
- 5) Who notified the operators of the Right to Know website of the ATO decision?

**Answer:**

- 1) This decision was made on 19 August 2016. The decision was made because the ATO considers that to process FOI requests via the Right To Know (RTK) website is inconsistent with its Workplace Health and Safety responsibilities under section 19 of the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2011* (Cth).
- 2) ATO General Counsel.
- 3) No.
- 4) The ATO undertook internal consultations.
- 5) ATO General Counsel.