

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates Hearing 25-29 May 2015

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
Outcome/Program: Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet
Topic: Use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms

Senator: Senator Corey Bernardi

Question reference number: 33

Type of question: FPA Tuesday 26 May 2015, page 43

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2015

Number of pages: 1

Question:

CHAIR: How many inquiries about unauthorised use have been implemented in the last few years?

Mr Rush: I do not have that information at hand, but we can certainly take that on notice.

Answer:

The Department received nine inquiries in 2013-14 and nine inquiries in 2014-15 to 31 May 2015 about whether the use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms (the Arms) was appropriate or not.

All 18 inquiries were investigated by the Department, the outcomes of which are as follows:

- Four inquiries were confirmed to be appropriate uses of the Arms.
- Eight inquiries were confirmed to be inappropriate uses of the Arms. The Department advised the relevant parties that their use of the Arms was not authorised, and the Arms were subsequently removed by those parties.
- Four inquiries related to logos that contained similar elements to the Arms, but which the Department deemed to be sufficiently different from the Arms. No further action was taken.
- One inquiry was regarding another Australian Government agency's use of the Arms. The matter was referred to the relevant agency for response.
- One inquiry related to the use of the New Zealand Coat of Arms on merchandise, which also included incidental use of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms. The Department has been liaising with the New Zealand Government on this matter.