

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

Group 2

Program 1.3

Question No. 128

Senator Singh asked the following question at the hearing on 24 February 2014:

1) Has the Attorney-General met with representatives of the Minerals Council in the period between 9 September 2013 and the Senate Estimates Hearings on 24 February 2014?

2) If a meeting between the Attorney-General and the Minerals Council did occur, was funding of EDOs discussed at that meeting in the period between 9 September 2013 and the Senate Estimates Hearings on 24 February 2014?

3) Did Senator Brandis meet with representatives of the Minerals Council during 2013 prior to the Federal Election on 7 September 2013?

4) If a meeting between Senator Brandis and the Minerals Council did occur during 2013 prior to the Federal Election on 7 September 2013, was funding of EDOs discussed at that meeting?

5) Has the Attorney-General received any written representations from the Minerals Council since the Abbott Government took office on 18 September 2013 regarding funding to EDOs?

i. If so, on what dates were those representations received?

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

1) No

2) Not necessary to answer.

3) This question is not appropriate since it is directed to matters which took place prior to Senator Brandis becoming the Attorney-General. Questions at Estimates hearings are limited to the actions of the Government, not of the Opposition.

4) Not necessary to answer.

5) A letter from the NSW Minerals Council dated 11 October 2013 was received by the Attorney-General.