

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

Group: 2

Program 1.1

Question No. SBE14/065

Senator Collins asked the following question at the hearing on 20 November 2014:

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: How many submissions has the government's piracy consultation attracted?

Mr Minogue: There were approximately 720 submissions.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: And what is the breakup of those between industry or lobby groups and individuals?

Mr Minogue: A hundred of those were from organisations representing both sides of the equation, if you like, being ISPs, peak bodies and rights holder groups. And the rest were from individuals.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Which ones did the government make publicly available?

Mr Minogue: The department published on its website all the submissions from organisations and it subsequently made available to individuals who requested them copies of all submissions that were provided that were not confidential.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: So, your advice to the opposition is to request copies of them all?

Mr Minogue: Yes. The problem with the number of submissions we encountered was literally how to get all of those on our website in an accessible form, as we are required to do. We are still working through it, but the priority was the ones from organisations. That is not to say that the other 620 were not available. It is just a matter of what the best way is to make those available.

Senator JACINTA COLLINS: Does the site advertise that?

Mr Minogue: I do not know, to tell you the truth. I would have to take that on notice.

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

The 'Online Copyright Infringement—Public Consultation' page of the Attorney-General's Department website

<<http://www.ag.gov.au/Consultations/Pages/Onlinecopyrightinfringementpublicconsultation.aspx>>, states that submissions received from peak industry groups, companies, academics and non-government organisations that have not requested confidentiality are being progressively published. It also notes that the Department reserves the right to publish or not publish submissions, or publish summaries of submissions, on its website at its own discretion. The 'Accessibility' page of the Attorney-General's Department's website <<http://www.ag.gov.au/Pages/Accessibility.aspx>> contains information about the accessibility of information on the Department's website. The site does not suggest people might approach the Department directly for copies of submissions.