

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

**Program: General**

**Question No. SBE15/066**

**Senator Bilyk asked the following question at the hearing on 20 October 2015:**

1. Has the Attorney-General's Department briefed the Attorney-General or his office on the findings of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee inquiry into the handling of correspondence from Man Haron Monis?

If so-

- a. On what date(s) was that advice provided?
- b. In what form was it provided?
- c. Can a copy of any written advice please be provided?

2. Has the Attorney-General or any officials from the Attorney-General's issued a notice, circular or intranet message to departmental staff about the findings of the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee inquiry into the handling of correspondence from Man Haron Monis?

If so-

- a. On what date(s) was did that occur?
- b. In what form was it communicated?
- c. Can a copy of any written communications please be provided?

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

1. Yes

	(a) Date	(b) Form	(c) Can a copy be provided
i	16 September 2015 and subsequently	Email to Attorney-General's Office advising that the report had been released, and attaching the report and a related Question Time Brief (QTB). QTBs were subsequently provided as required.	Email message attached. It would not be appropriate to provide the QTB as it is advice to Government.
ii	On / around 22 September 2015	Verbal briefing to Attorney-General's Office by then Deputy Secretary, David Fredericks.	No written advice.
iii	14 October 2015	Senate Estimates Brief	No. It would not be appropriate to provide the Senate Estimates Brief as it is advice to Government.

2. Information relating to the findings of the inquiry that has been issued to departmental staff is set out in the table below and provided at Attachments 1-13. Material that is not related to the Monis correspondence or inquiry has been redacted from the Executive Board and Senior Management Committee papers. Names of non-SES staff have also been redacted from these attachments.

Att.	(a) Date	(b) Form	(c) Can a copy be provided
1	18/09/2015	Email Executive Board (EB) Meeting – Agenda Papers – 22 September 2015	Yes
2	24/09/2015	Email Senior Management Committee (SMC) Meeting - Agenda Papers - 29 September 2015	Yes
3	29/09/2015	Email EB Meeting – Agenda Papers – 30 September 2015	Yes
4	30/09/2015	Email IMPORTANT INFO FOR YOU - AGD Protocol - Search Extractions	Yes
5	30/09/2015	Email COO News - Edition 9/2015	Yes
6	01/10/2015	Email SMC Meeting - Agenda Papers - 6 October 2015	Yes
7	09/10/2015	Speaking Notes Secretary's 'Off the Cuff' address to all staff	Yes
8	16/10/2015	Email SMC Meeting - Agenda Papers - 19 October 2015	Yes
9	19/10/2015	Email IMPORTANT INFO: Parliamentary Accountability - Senate Estimates	Yes
10	23/10/2015	Email SMC Meeting - Agenda Papers - 26 October 2015	Yes
11	26/10/2015	Email COO News – Edition 10/2015	Yes
12	26/10/2015	Email Invitation - Information Sessions - Protocol for Official Searches for and Extraction of Documents	Yes
13	03/11/2015	Email FINAL REMINDER- Information Session - Search Protocol	Yes