

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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**Question: SBT 90**

**Topic: Ministerial Submissions**

Senator Bushby:

1. Did the Government, Minister or his office return any documents to the Department once the caretaker conventions began?
2. Did these documents include Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes?
3. How many unread, unsigned or undealt with Ministerial submissions, briefs or notes were sent back?
4. What was the date of the earliest such document that was sent back from the Minister's office and the date of the last?
5. Did the Minister or his office request prior to the calling of the election that no more submissions, briefs or notes be sent?

**Answer:**

1. Yes, documents were returned to the ATO once the caretaker conventions began.
2. Yes, they did include Ministerial briefings.
3. Of the 71 briefings in the Ministers' offices when the caretaker conventions began (70 of which were 'for information only'), 14 were returned signed or noted. The remaining briefings were not returned to the ATO but were finalised with no further action at the direction of the Ministers' staff. The ATO is not in a position to determine if any of these were 'unread, unsigned or undealt with'.
4. The date of the earliest briefing sent back from the Ministers' offices was 9 December 2009. The date of the last was 19 July 2010.
5. No.