



21 JUN 2010

**Senator the Hon John Faulkner
Minister for Defence**



Senator Mark Bishop
Chair
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator ~~Bishop~~

Mark,

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the Budget Estimates hearing held on 31 May 2010 concerning Defence's performance in meeting Freedom of Information requests.

In discussion with Senator Trood (page 115 of *Proof Hansard*), I stated that: '...there have been no defective administration notices issued by the Ombudsman's office to Defence during the past year'. This information was incorrect because one notice of 'administrative deficiency on the grounds of unreasonable delay' was received in October last year.

It related to an application that had been made in April 2007, which had not been actioned until the formation of a new Freedom of Information Branch in June last year. It was finalised in August 2009. The applicant complained to the Ombudsman's office over the delay and, in October 2009, Defence received the defective administration notice.

The error occurred as a result of wrong information being provided to me by Defence. The officer concerned, the Assistant Secretary Freedom of Information and Information Management, Mr Corcoran, has asked me to convey his apologies to the committee.

I regret any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

JOHN FAULKNER