

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Budget Estimates Hearings 2005-2006, 13 February 2006

Question: PM 25

Outcome 1, Output 4.3

Topic: Guidelines and advice concerning FOI requests

Hansard Page: F&PA 112-113

Senator Evans asked: I understand that PM&C has circulated new advice on compliance with FOI requests or there have been new guidelines issued. Is that correct or not? I understand that there was some document circulated under the signature of Dr Shergold. Is that what you mean by the reminder?

Answer:

The department does not issue guidelines on FOI requests generally for other government agencies. (The agency responsible for the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* is the Attorney-General's Department.)

The department has a Guide for FOI Decision-Makers, as a reference for the department's decision-makers and other departmental officers handling FOI requests, which was last updated in October 2003.