

**Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Commonwealth Ombudsman Office**

Estimates 2005-06 – Additional Estimates, February 2006

**Question: PM 44**

**Topic: Briefs forwarded to the Department of Public Prosecution**

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

1. How many briefs have you forwarded to the DPP for 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05?
  - a. How many briefs were returned without action, and how many were actioned?
2. For each year, what was the average time (as well as indicating the minimum and maximum time in each case) in which it took the DPP to...
  - a. Bring charges against the accused party
  - b. Formally bring the matter to a conclusion through either a verdict of guilty or not guilty, the entrance of a nolle prosequi or dropping the charges
  - c. Return the brief for no further action
3. Did the department or agency forward any formal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
  - a. If so, give details.
4. Did the department or agency forward any informal complaints to the DPP regarding the handling of the brief?
  - a. If so, give details.

**Answer:**

1. No briefs have been forwarded to the Department of Public Prosecution for the years in question
2. Not applicable
3. Not applicable
4. Not applicable