

**Senate Finance & Public Administration Committee:  
Answers to written Questions on Notice Additional Budget Estimates 2013  
Parliamentary Departments Portfolio**

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**Department/Agency:** Department of the Senate

**Topic:** Freedom of Information (FOI)

**Senator:** Senator Rhiannon

**Question reference number:** 4

**Type of Question:** Oral

**Question**

**Senator Rhiannon asked if the Senate Department had held discussions with the Attorney- General's Department (AGD) about plans to amend the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act to exclude the Parliamentary Departments from FOI.**

**Answer**

The Senate Department did not hold formal discussions with the Attorney-General's Department about plans to amend the FOI Act to exclude the Parliamentary Departments from FOI.

However, the Senate Department did canvass the possibility with an AGD officer that the proposed Parliamentary Service Amendment Bill might include a clause to clarify FOI in relation to the two chamber departments and the Department of Parliamentary Services. Such a clause was not included in the bill.