



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

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CLERK OF THE SENATE

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17 October 2011

Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
17 OCTOBER 2011 – DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

At the hearing on Monday 17 October 2011, the Senate Department took three questions on notice. The responses are provided below:

- 1. Senators Faulkner and Fifield asked how many times the 12th edition of *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice* had been accessed on the web and provided in hardcover:**

Since October 2008, there have been a total of 115,197 page-views of *Odgers' Australian Senate Practice* accessed through the Department of the Senate web-link, broken down as follows:

17 October 2008 – 30 June 2009	10,353 page-views
1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010	38,128 page-views
1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011	66,716 page-views

These figures do not take into account any access by users through the ParlInfo search function. It should also be noted that it is more meaningful to discuss page-views rather than hits as the latter counts graphics and embedded files which can overstate access levels.

Furthermore, a total of 1,000 copies of the 12th edition of Odgers were printed of which 275 copies have been sold and 463 copies distributed (to senators, departmental staff, selected commentators and others). The department currently has a total of 262 copies on hand.

2. Senator Bernardi asked whether certain software applications could be loaded onto MPs' computers at Parliament House but not onto similar equipment for Senators:

The Usher of the Black Rod was consulted by the President's office when Senator Bernardi wrote to the President about this matter and Black Rod advised that this question was the responsibility of the Department of Parliamentary Services who are preparing a reply.

3. Senator Parry asked about the figures provided in correspondence from the Clerk in relation to costs associated with the Law Enforcement Parliamentary Joint Committee/Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity:

In relation to the financial summary provided about Senate committees and specifically the Law Enforcement Parliamentary Joint Committee/Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, I can confirm that the figures provided in my update to the Committee on 12 October are correct. I can also confirm, as mentioned during the hearing, that the presentation of the three cost centres was not amalgamated into one entry as it usually is. This was a presentation error that has been corrected, as shown below.

Law Enforcement Parliamentary Joint Committee/Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity					
	2008-09		2009-10		2010-11
Staff costs	331,178		284,372		342,936
Administrative costs	68,062		53,670		45,380

I am happy to provide responses to any further questions once the Hansard is finalised.

Yours sincerely

(Rosemary Laing)