

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARINGS: 11 February 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(AE13/0191) PROGRAM – Internal Product

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

On page 5 of the Department's response to the Office of the Information Commissioner (OAIC) investigation Processing of non-routine FOI requests by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, it states: "The Department will also be engaging with the Minister's office to clarify their role in relation to significant FOI cases." (a) Has the Department engaged with the Minister's office? If so, what was the response from the Minister's office? If not, then why not? (b) Has there been a change of procedure as a result of discussions? If so, can you please explain the procedure? If there has been no change, then why not?

Answer:

- (a) The department has had a change of Minister since the A/g Secretary provided a response to the OAIC. This has resulted in a change in procedures.
- (b) As per the response to part (a), with the change of Minister there has been a change in procedures. According to these procedures, when an FOI decision has been drafted, the Minister's Office is provided with copies of the documents to be released and informed of the date of release.