

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 2.1

Question No. 63

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2006:

In relation to the OECD foreign bribery public awareness campaign survey:

- a) Was the Australian Wheat Board one of the companies surveyed?
- b) Did the Australian Wheat Board respond to the survey? If so, could it be provided?
- c) How many corporations indicated that they had reported an incident of foreign bribery of public officials through one of its offices?
- d) Have you collated any of that information?
- e) If you have can it be provided including the range of matters or incidents and which countries were involved?

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

- a) AWB Ltd was one of the top 100 Australian companies written to by Ms Joanne Blackburn, First Assistant Secretary, Criminal Justice Division in May 2005. In that correspondence, the Department requested information about AWB Ltd's awareness-raising activities and requested the completion of a foreign bribery awareness survey.
- b) On 20 June 2005, the Attorney-General's Department received AWB Ltd's survey response. The Department's correspondence requesting the completion of the survey did not indicate that the information might be made publicly available by the Department. The Department has written to AWB Ltd giving AWB Ltd the opportunity to raise any objections to the Department making the document available by tabling the document in the Senate.
- c) The survey did not ask if there have been known instances of foreign bribery within the companies. The leaflet prepared by the Department and distributed as part of the public awareness campaign advises that where there is a suspicion that an individual or a company has bribed or attempted to bribe a foreign public official, the matter should be reported to Crime Stoppers or referred to the Australian Federal Police.
- d) No. There was no data on the issue collated.
- e) The survey asked broad questions concerning each company's commitment to and promotion of Foreign Bribery Awareness. The survey questions did not ask for information about specific instances of foreign bribery allegations.