

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Group 2

Program 1.1

Question No. 69

Senator Rhiannon asked the following question at the hearing on 29 May 2013:

Senator RHIANNON: Why did the government reject the recommendation of the Productivity Commission that EFIC, our export credit agency, be subject to FOI laws?

Mr Minogue: That is really a matter that was the responsibility of Treasury in responding to the Productivity Commission, so that is a question that should be directed to Treasury.

Senator RHIANNON: Even though it has this FOI component? Have you given any consideration to this at all?

Mr Minogue: I have not personally. I will check with other officers.

Senator RHIANNON: Has somebody?

Mr Minogue: We are aware of that, but it is not a matter that I have personally dealt with.

Senator RHIANNON: My question is: was anybody within your agency asked to give advice on this matter? Was any advice given?

Mr Minogue: We will take that on notice, if that is okay.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you. I imagine you will take this on notice as well. Has any consideration been given to amending the FOI legislation, especially considering the criticism surrounding the transparency of EFIC's work?

Mr Fredericks: We will take that on notice, at your invitation.

Senator RHIANNON: Thank you.

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

The Government Response to the Productivity Commission's report noted the relevant recommendation (Recommendation 9.8). The Attorney-General's Department has not given any additional consideration to that Recommendation.