

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

**Program SPCG**

**Question No. 94**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2010:**

Since Budget Estimates:

- a. How much time is spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet Committee meetings?
- b. How often must papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet committee meetings be redrafted or relodged? Please provide example of why this would happen (ie last minute policy changes or redate papers due to items not being discussed when initially scheduled).

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

- a. The amount of time spent preparing papers/submissions for Cabinet and Sub-Cabinet meetings varies depending on the complexity of the issue and the level of consultation required. The Department does not keep records of the time spent preparing each paper/submission. To retrospectively calculate the time spent preparing papers/submissions would entail an unreasonable diversion of Departmental resources.
- b. It is the longstanding practice of successive Governments to not comment on cabinet processes and deliberations.