

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

**Group 2**

**Program 1.1**

**Question No. 12**

**Senator Edwards asked the following question at the hearing on 18 November 2013:**

**Senator EDWARDS:** How many of the 40 applicants [for the Race Discrimination Commissioner appointment] were party aligned?

**Prof. Triggs:** I would have to take that on notice. I would imagine that there were very few but there may have been one or two.

...

**Senator EDWARDS:** But you do not know how many of the 40 applicants were members of political parties, except for one.

**Prof. Triggs:** No, I am afraid I cannot give you an answer to that. I can certainly find out as a matter of notice and I would be very happy to come back to you.

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

There were 32 applicants for the position of Race Discrimination Commissioner. The Department and selection panel did not inquire into the political affiliations of any candidates as that was not a relevant consideration against the selection criteria.