

Appendix 5

Responses received to 35 questions placed on notice by Senator Alan Missen on 5 April 1978, seeking access to reports and documents held by the Commonwealth Government

<i>Quest. No.</i>	<i>Minister responsible</i>	<i>Department responsible</i>	<i>Subject matter</i>	<i>Answer in Hansard</i>	<i>Response</i>	<i>Comment</i>
318	Fraser	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Continental Airlines: Submission to United States	9.5.78 Page 1535	Disclosure refused	Disclosure would be 'prejudicial to the international relations of the Commonwealth'.
319	Fraser	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Seas and Submerged Lands IDC Report	9.5.78 Pages 1535-6	Disclosure refused	'Internal working documents . . . are not normally available for public access'.
320	Fraser	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Unemployment Benefits IDC Report	9.5.78 Page 1536	Disclosure refused	As above.
321	Fraser	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Counter Staff Services IDC Report	9.6.78 Page 2797	Access granted	Can study Report once Cabinet has finished with it.
322	Peacock	Foreign Affairs	Survey of Japan	1.6.78 Pages 2317-8	Access granted to summary only	Complete access would be a breach of 'confidence' and 'contractual obligations'.
323	Fraser	Prime Minister and Cabinet	Number of Inter-departmental Committees	4.5.78 Page 1418	Disclosure refused	It is convention not to answer such a question.
324	Ellicott	Home Affairs	Commonwealth Police Report on Christmas Island	15.8.78 Pages 38-9	Access granted to precis only	Complete access would 'prejudice the investigation of a breach of the law'.
325	Withers now Chaney	Administrative Services	Museums and Libraries IDC Reports	12.10.78 Page 1301	Disclosure refused	Access will not be allowed while the Government is considering the reports.

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326	Sinclair	Primary Industry	Cheynes Beach licences	15.8.78 Page 39	Access granted	Previous denial was reconsidered.
327	Street	Employment and Industrial Relations	Public Service Board Report on Government Administration	9.5.78 Pages 1536-7	Disclosure refused	'Advice furnished to Ministers by public service advisers . . . should remain confidential'.
328	Street	Employment and Industrial Relations	Instructions of eligibility criteria for unemployment benefits	22.8.78 Page 280	Disclosure refused	This matter should be pursued with the Minister for Social Security.
329	Nixon	Transport	IDC Report on Transport Funding	12.8.78 Page 496	Disclosure refused	'It contains reference to Cabinet deliberations'.
330	Nixon	Transport	ANR Report on accidents	10.10.78 Page 1169	Access granted to edited report	Complete access would have an 'adverse effect on staff management interests of the ANR'.
331	Nixon	Transport	Duty Free Shop Tenders and Lease	12.8.78 Page 496	Access granted	Previous denial was reconsidered.
332	Nixon	Transport	McNeil Reports on TAA, Qantas and ANR	12.8.78 Pages 496-7	Disclosure refused	Disclosure 'could disadvantage the undertakings in their commercial operations'.
333	Guilfoyle	Social Security	South Sea Islanders IDC Report	23.8.78 Page 351	Access granted	Previous denial was reconsidered.
334	Howard	Treasury	Report on Proportional Income Tax	19.9.78 Page 732	Disclosure refused	It is not 'appropriate that they should be publicly released'.
335	MacKellar	Immigration and Ethnic Affairs	Handbook of Hate	9.5.78 Page 1537	Disclosure refused	'There was no intention that the material should be published'.

336	Viner	Aboriginal Affairs	Report on the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Centre	15.8.78 Page 39	Request not granted	'There was no Departmental Report' on this specific topic.
337	Hunt	Health	Medibank Review Committee Reports	15.8.78 Pages 39-40	Disclosure refused	'Policy advice from officials to Ministers on a matter of Government Policy such as this should not be publicly disclosed'.
338	Staley	Postal and Telecommunications	IDC Report on FM Broadcasting	12.8.78 Page 497	Disclosure refused	The Report 'is an internal working document prepared for the Government's consideration'.
339	Staley	Postal and Telecommunications	ABC Complaint Files	10.10.78 Page 1169	Disclosure refused	Access 'would interfere unreasonably with the operations of the agency'.
340	Staley	Postal and Telecommunications	Report on reason for increase in telegram prices	17.10.78 Page 1365	Disclosure refused pending reconsideration	While report is 'confidential', Telecom will be asked to reconsider its decision.
341	Staley	Postal and Telecommunications	Financial returns furnished to Australian Broadcasting Tribunal	10.10.78 Pages 1169-70	Request not granted	There is no record of such a request. If requested, Tribunal would decide.
342	Staley	Postal and Telecommunications	IDC Report on implementation of the Green Report	12.8.78 Page 497	Disclosure refused pending reconsideration	While the report is 'confidential', may be able to segregate it and publish part of its contents.
343	Durack	Attorney-General	Pecuniary Interests statement by Australian Broadcasting Tribunal Chairman	12.8.78 Pages 497-8	Disclosure refused	Disclosure 'would constitute an unreasonable disclosure of the personal affairs of a person'.
344	Adermann	Northern Territory	Interim Report on N.T. Electricity Supply	24.5.78 Page 1809	Access granted	Access was not allowed until the final report was completed.
345	Adermann	Northern Territory	IDC Report on N.T. Legislative Assembly	15.8.78 Page 40	Disclosure refused	The report concerns material 'prepared for the deliberative process involved in the functions of the Government'.

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346	Webster	Science	Department submissions on the Antarctic	15.8.78 Pages 40-1	Disclosure refused	'The submissions had been prepared for Cabinet's consideration . . . and . . . were not available for public access'.
347	Groom	E.H.C.D.	Report on Uranium debate	12.10.78 Page 1301	Access granted	The report was 'confidential' but 'can now be made public'.
348	Fife	Business and Consumer Affairs	Submission on Trade Practices Act	19.10.78 Page 1496	Disclosure refused	'The submissions should not be publicly disclosed'.
349	Fife	Business and Consumer Affairs	Report on six A.C.T. companies	12.8.78 Page 498	Disclosure refused	Complete disclosure could 'affect the interests' of those who acted as witnesses in the inquiry.
350	Fife	Business and Consumer Affairs	IDC Report on application of Trade Practices Act	12.8.78 Page 498	Disclosure refused	'The report comprised confidential policy advice to the Government'.
351	Fife	Business and Consumer Affairs	Submission on the Swanson Report	19.10.78 Page 1496	Disclosure refused	'The submissions should not be publicly disclosed'.
352	Garland	Veterans' Affairs	Submissions on the Toose Report	22.8.78 Page 280	Access granted	Access had never been denied.

Position as at Monday, 23 October 1978:

Access now granted	. . . . .	7
Partial access granted	. . . . .	3
Disclosure refused	. . . . .	21
Disclosure refused pending reconsideration	. . . . .	2
Request not granted	. . . . .	2

All questions have been answered.