Question on Notice

No. 916

Asked on 31 August 2022

MR T NICHOLLS ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Office of the Information Commissioner's annual reports and the key metric the 'number of monitoring and compliance activities' being omitted from the reports after the 2017- 18 Annual report —

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) if these activities still happen and (b) if so, provide the number of monitoring and compliance activities undertaken since 2017-18 (reported separately by year for the last five years)?

ANSWER:

(a)   The Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) monitors, audits, reviews and reports on agencies' personal information management and information privacy practices and on their compliance with the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009.*

Activities included in OIC's Annual Reports prior to 2016-17 as 'monitoring and compliance activities' were low level outputs, including audits of agencies' websites and 'internal' 'business as usual' activities such as performing an annual risk assessment or developing an audit charter. In 2016-17 the OIC changed the measure and the counting methodology to focus on external public outputs.

The new approach better reflects a more strategic and risk-based audit approach. The data dictionary was also amended and there is now a clear definition of what the OIC measures and reports about its monitoring and compliance function.

(b)   The OIC Annual Reports noted the following number of reports relevant to monitoring and compliance tabled in Parliament from 2017-18 to 2020-21:

Year	*Number of reports relevant to monitoring and compliance tabled in Parliament*
2017-18	3
2018-19	5
2019-20	3
2020-21	5

The OIC continues to do regular risk assessments, environmental scans or methodology reviews where applicable, however does not keep a tally of these activities. Training and resources such as self-assessment audit tools and guidance are counted under other OIC performance measures.