

ASIC responses to Questions on Notice

QoN Number: 3

Hansard Page Ref: 16

Question

CHAIR: Since the matter was raised around the PJC, I know that the last hearing had been somewhat confrontational, I think would be fair to say, between ASIC and the PJC, but you may not seek to describe it. Following it there was an article called, 'Hayne's warning on parliamentary plodders proves prescient'—and apart from my admiration for any use of alliteration—written by Adele Ferguson of the Fairfax Press. Have you read that article, Mr Shipton?

Mr Shipton: Yes, I have.

CHAIR: Just out of clarity: did ASIC have any communication with Adele Ferguson before that article was written?

Mr Shipton: I am not aware of any communication.

CHAIR: Could you take that on notice—

Mr Shipton: Yes of course.

Answer

It has been suggested that an ASIC officer may have communicated with Ms Ferguson in relation to her article 'Hayne's warning on parliamentary plodders proves prescient' (the Article). ASIC remains unaware of any communication with Ms Ferguson in relation to the Article following the last PJC hearing on 13 September and when the article was published the following day.

We note, as a general matter that as an independent statutory agency, ASIC's Commission members and Senior Executives do regularly and properly engage with the media in order to explain and effectively communicate ASIC's regulatory messages and activities.