

DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY SPOKEN QUESTION ON NOTICE

Senate Economics References Committee

22 August 2023

QoN Number: 2

Subject: Summary of all information, including scripts and computer code, that was entered into ChatGPT by Home Affairs employees

Asked by: David Shoebridge

Question:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Can you provide on notice all of the information, or a summary of the information, that was fed into ChatGPT by Home Affairs?

Mr Hansford: I'll take that on notice.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Good.

Mr Hansford: But I will just give you the sense. We will work and give you as much information as we have.

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Which, I've got to say, is probably bugger-all, given you didn't have any records or control? That is a fair summary, isn't it?

Mr Hansford: No

Answer:

Analysis of the use of ChatGPT from November 2022 to its suspension in May 2023 identified the topics researched on the site were related to general curiosity regarding the ChatGPT technology, technical background research and troubleshooting, and for personal awareness.

No specific codes and/or scripts were produced and/or uploaded into departmental systems as a result of these ChatGPT queries.

Record keeping obligations for public servants are outlined by the *National Archives Act 1983*. All staff are aware of their record keeping obligations. Where information is related to business activities and/or decisions, a staff member is required to create a record of that information. A Google or ChatGPT search is not considered a business record, unless it directly impacts or influences a decision made by a public servant. There is no evidence that any staff member used ChatGPT to make a formal decision on behalf of the Department.