

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Sport Australia

PDR Number: IQ20-000545

Question Number: 1

Question: Text messages, WhatsApp, encrypted messages between Sport Australia and PMO.

Type of Questions: Hansard Page 9, 3 July 2020

Questioner: Julian Hill MP

Question:

Mr HILL: Can you take it on notice then that I'd like to receive your responses to what text messages, WhatsApp or other encrypted messaging services, records of phone calls or any other hard-copy material may have passed between the minister's office and the Prime Minister's office and Sport Australia in relation to this program?

Mr Dalton: We will take that on notice.

Answer:

The ASC provides the corporate technology platform for its staff to conduct official business; the platform is comprised of specific applications for corporate email, Microsoft Teams, Microsoft Dynamics, OneDrive and SharePoint.

Storing official information such as ASC records using unofficial technology platforms conflicts with the ASC Code of Conduct and technology services Terms of Use. It is contrary to these policies for staff to use unofficial platforms or applications to manage official information including ASC records or data. Where official records are transmitted via unofficial platforms or applications, staff are required to ensure that records are transferred onto the corporate platform.

Consistent with this policy, searches of records conducted by the ASC will include records which ASC staff have transferred from unofficial platforms to the corporate platform.

All current ASC staff involved with the CSI program have confirmed they have not transmitted information about the program via unofficial platforms or applications.

The ASC has no insight into any information that may have been passed between the former Minister's office and the Prime Minister's office.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Sport Australia

PDR Number: IQ20-000548

Question Number: 4

Question: How many times did Sport Australia deal with MO, Dept or anyone else through this period?

Type of Questions: Hansard Page 12, 3 July 2020

Questioner: Julian Hill MP

Question:

Mr HILL: Well, now that you're going to be searching through all text messages, WhatsApp messages, secure communications, emails, documents, carrier pigeons, maybe that'll pop up too. This is my final question. How many times between 4 April and the time of receiving the signed brief did Sport Australia communicate with either the minister's office or the department, or indeed any other government office, about the round 3 approvals?

Mr Dalton: We would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Sport Australia has identified one instance during the period between 4 and 11 April 2019 in which a Sport Australia staff member communicated about round 3 to a staff member in the former Minister's office on 4 April. This was referenced in Sport Australia's response to IQ20-000202 (Question number 3) from the Senate Select Committee on the Administration of Sports Grants.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Sport Australia

PDR Number: IQ20-000553

Question Number: 9

Question: Questions on Notice from Senate Select Committee hearing.

Type of Questions: Hansard Page 14-15, 3 July 2020

Questioner: Alicia Payne MP

Question:

Ms PAYNE: Next I refer to questions taken on notice during the 27 February public hearing of the Select Committee on Administration of Sports Grants, answers to which were received by that committee from Sport Australia on the 17 March 2020. Those answers are on the committee's public website. There are a number of question numbers missing in those answers. Can we assume that those are questions on notice that are yet to be answered?

Mr McCann: That is correct. They're in the process of being worked through to be tabled.

Ms PAYNE: How many questions on notice from the select committee into Sport Australia remain unanswered?

Mr McCann: 14.

Ms PAYNE: I don't suppose you have a list?

Mr McCann: I will just clarify that they haven't been tabled.

Ms PAYNE: Right.

Mr McCann: I will provide the list on notice.

Ms PAYNE: I don't suppose you have a list of unanswered questions on notice with you?

Mr McCann: Yes, we do. I can read those out for you.

Ms PAYNE: It'd be great if you could give a brief summary of what they relate to.

Mr McCann: Sport Australia outlining risk to minister's office: was there a response to the emails to Mr O'Neill from the minister to the minister's office? Sport Australia emails to the PMO: provide any emails from Sport Australia to the Prime Minister's office. Legal authority: provide a legal opinion obtained by Sport Australia. On 12, approval box R3 submission: provide a signed submission for round 3. Scores of five new projects: provide the scores of

the five new projects inserted in round 3. A table of funding for sport: what was funded by sport in terms of dollars and in terms of number of projects? Raw data of assessment scores: provide raw data of assessment scores that were provided to the minister's office. Communication between Sport Australia and Tennis Australia: are there any communications that occurred between Sport Australia and Tennis Australia while cases were open? All applications request: provide all 2,056 applications and the data associated with that. Colour-coded spreadsheets: provide all 28 versions. Information provided to the assessment panel: provide the material and overview provided by Sport Australia to the assessment panel. Signed submission requests: provide a signed brief returned to Sport Australia by the minister's office on 11 April. Communication between Sport Australia and the minister's office and the Prime Minister's office. Finally, the Sans Souci Football Club: what score did the Sans Souci Football Club receive?

Ms PAYNE: Thank you. Have responses been prepared to those questions?

Mr McCann: Yes. Responses have been prepared for those questions on notice.

Ms PAYNE: Have those draft responses been provided to the minister's office?

Mr McCann: They've been provided to the department as part of the process for agencies to have them noted through the department process side.

Ms PAYNE: You wouldn't know if they've been provided to the minister's office by the department.

Mr McCann: No, I don't know. I can take that on notice.

Answer:

The responses to the relevant questions on notice have now been tabled.

Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Sport Australia

PDR Number: IQ20-000563

Question Number: 19

Question: How many hours spent working on program?

Type of Questions: Hansard Page 25, 3 July 2020

Questioner: Julian Hill MP

Question:

Mr HILL: How many hours do you think that those staff would've collectively spent on this program and, in particular, round 1?

Mr McCann: A significant amount of time—that would've been their entire job.

Mr HILL: Can you take both of those questions on notice: the number of staff and roughly how many hours they spent assessing round 1? The third aspect would be the cost to the taxpayer of those staff diligently doing their job, the brief, which the minister didn't even read, didn't even consider their work.

Mr McCann: We'll take that on notice.

Answer:

There were 15 staff involved with assessing round 1. Eight of these staff were from the Community Sport Infrastructure team and seven from other business areas. It isn't possible to accurately estimate the number of hours spent on assessment as staff from outside the Community Sport Infrastructure team were also undertaking other duties through the assessment period.