

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

**Question: BET 745**

**Topic: Social Media (ABS)**

**Hansard Page: Written (Received from Committee 13 June 2012)**

**Senator Bushby asked:**

745. Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since publication of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1: Revisions to the Commission's guidance on making public comment and participating online?

If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue. If no, please explain why not.

**Answer:**

The ABS is finalising its' social media policy in line with the guidelines issued by the APSC. The policy will be supported by guidance and training that clearly articulates individuals' responsibilities when commenting in an official or unofficial capacity. Compliance with APS Values and the Code of Conduct is emphasised.

The ABS closely controls access to, and usage of, social media in the workplace, following the guidance of DSD's Information Security Manual. In general, access to social media sites is allowed with restrictions applied to certain functionality (for instance, messaging). There has been no significant changes required or made to the access control mechanisms as a consequence of the Australian Public Service Commission's Circular 2012/1