

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Budget Estimates 2013

5 June 2013

**Question: BET 45**

**Topic: Staff behaviour**

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**Senator ABETZ asked:**

**Mr Olesen:** As Mr Reardon indicated to you, there is an ongoing investigation looking into those tweets. I guess where I was trying to draw the line was about particulars of actions taken in respect of Mr Adams, because of the obligations we have under the Privacy Act. I think Mr Reardon said to you earlier that there is ongoing action being undertaken. I happily confirm that, as we head to Ms Tankard Rheist.

**Senator ABETZ:** But this is from a previous matter. I am assuming that the previous matter was all closed off, line drawn under it. Certain guarantees were given and now the current investigation is back at it again. I fully understand. We are not asking what is happening there, but whether or not as part of the previous matter a letter was sent. He has said publicly that a letter was sent from personnel, but you are not willing to confirm that what he has said here is true, correct or indifferent

**Mr Olesen:** As a matter of fact, I do not think his tweet did say that. I think he said, 'just in case I get something'.

**Senator ABETZ:** No, unless I want another STFU letter from personnel. Saying another letter suggests that there was a previous one.

**Mr Olesen:** I am just trying to draw the line at getting into particulars about the matters that were engaged with Ms Rheist.

**Senator ABETZ:** Take it on notice.

**Senator Wong:** Can I make a suggestion? As I understand it, the question is: as a result of the previous investigation—not the current one—was a letter sent to the employee concerned? Is that the question?

**Senator ABETZ:** Correct.

**Senator Wong:** Why don't we take that on notice and the ATO can consider that appropriately with their advisers.

**Senator ABETZ:** That is exactly what I was going to suggest. We are ad idem on that, so that is all very good. If a letter was sent, also give consideration to it being tabled and take that on notice. We will get a response to that in due course. The fact that this person has simply opened a new Twitter account under a different name and continued this activity is now the subject of an investigation by the ATO.

**Answer:**

A letter was sent to Mr Adams.

We are unable to provide a copy of the letter due to privacy obligations.