

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Budget Estimates
2016 - 2017

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: BET 323

Topic: Taxpayer matter

Reference: Hansard – page 53 – 6 May 2016

Senator: Wong, Penny

Question:

Senator WONG: There has been some public reporting—and I am not going to ask about the detail of the person's tax affairs—in relation to a particular fashion designer, a Ms Johanna Johnson. It has been asserted publicly in the *Sunday Telegraph* that the foreign minister has made representations to the ATO. I simply want to ask—

Senator Cormann: Do you have a copy of the article there? I have a slightly different recollection of what was reported.

Senator WONG: Sure. I am happy to table it. It is my only copy and it has got highlights.

Senator Cormann: I remember reading it.

Senator WONG: I only have one question: has the ATO received any representations, directly or indirectly, from Ms Bishop or her office in relation to Ms Johnson's tax matters?

Mr Olesen: I think we would have to take that on notice.

Senator WONG: Does anyone have any knowledge?

Mr Mills: No. We have not seen anything.

Senator WONG: What about from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade?

Mr Olesen: Again, we would have to take that on notice.

Answer:

Due to confidentiality provisions in the tax act the ATO is unable to comment on any individual's or entity's tax affairs.