

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Office of the Secretary

Question No: 253

Topic: Budget Lockup

Reference: Written

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

1. Was this statement by the Secretary of the Treasury a statement of policy that had been agreed by any other senior executive in the Treasury ,the Treasurer, or staff in the Treasurer's office:
'So we will look into the lockups going forward, and it will come at a cost, of having iPads issued for everybody. They will not be able to take in an iPad or a laptop. That will be a Treasury iPad, and people would be able to prepare their story and reports onto the USB that they can then take out and plug into their own ones when they come out.'
2. If it was, when was this decided?
3. If not, can you explain why the Treasury said this?
4. What prompted the Treasury to release a media release later that day which essentially said the Treasury Secretary was not right and that 'Budget lock-up security measures are currently being reviewed' with 'the final form and arrangements will be decided in conjunction with the Treasurer's office.'
5. Who did Treasury consult with prior to that media release going out?
6. Was Treasury, or the Treasurer, or the Treasurer's office contacted by any media organization in relation to the Treasury Secretary's statement about lock-up arrangements?

Answer:

1. This was an agreed Treasury view following release of the 2017-18 Budget and after the normal review of the lockup management.
2. Please refer to part 1 above.
3. Not applicable
4. Treasury released a statement to confirm that it would engage with relevant stakeholders regarding changes to the budget lockup arrangements following the discussion at Senate Estimates.
5. The media release was prepared by Treasury.
6. Yes