

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

2017 - 2018

Division/Agency: Small Business and Consumer Policy Division

Question No: 259

Topic: Keep Me Posted Campaign

Reference: Hansard page 88 (30 May 2017)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

Senator KETTER: I would like to go to the campaign which is called Keep Me Posted, which is in relation to a campaign initiated by the shadow minister for consumer affairs. It is about vulnerable consumers who are required to pay extra for statements, bills and accounts being sent by mail rather than electronically. In a speech in the other place, the member for Mackellar indicated that the Minister for Small Business has advised that he has tasked Treasury with reviewing regulatory arrangements around fees for paper bills, with the view to identifying scope for regulatory reform. When did Treasury receive the request from the minister to explore this issue?

[...]

Ms Martin: In the last few weeks, we have had discussions with the minister's office and they have indicated that the minister would like us to review the current laws such as the Australian Consumer Law and how that applies to this area.

Senator KETTER: Are you able to give me a specific date for the initiation of that?

Ms Martin: I would have to take that on notice.

[...]

Senator KETTER: What consultation has Treasury or the minister or the minister's office conducted in relation to this issue?

Ms Martin: I met with Keep Me Posted yesterday and I understand the minister has met with Keep Me Posted a number of times.

Senator KETTER: Can you provide the dates for those on notice?

Ms Martin: Yes.

Answer:

- Treasury received a request from the office of the Minister for Small Business on 17 March 2017.
- The Minister for Small Business met with Keep Me Posted on 23 March 2017.
- The Minister's staff met with Keep Me Posted on 14 September 2016 and 31 May 2017.