

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2016 - 2017

Division/Agency: Australian Bureau of Statistics

Question No: 28

Topic: 2016 Census – Confidentiality

Reference: Written (19 October 2016)

Senator: Ketter, Chris

Question:

- 1) Does IBM have a confidentiality clause with the ABS?
- 2) Does NextGen – the Internet Service Provider that is said to have failed in instigating the Island Australia defence – have a confidentiality agreement with IBM?
- 3) Are the Treasurer, Minister responsible or in the case of subcontracting to NextGen, IBM, privy to the confidentiality provisions in the contracts?

Answer:

- 1) Yes, the clause used is consistent with the Commonwealth Policy on the use of Confidentiality provisions in contracts.
- 2) The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) does not have visibility of the commercial arrangements between IBM and its suppliers.
- 3) The ABS did not provide details of the confidentiality provisions in the contract with IBM to either the Treasurer or Minister.