

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000631**

Senator Kim Carr asked on 21 October 2015, Proof Hansard page 39

***Nous Contract - correspondence with department.***

**Question**

Senator KIM CARR: The return to order, Minister, went to a broader range of issues than just the report and the contracts. It went to all documents, which include the conversations between Nous and the department about the formation of this contract. Can we have access to those, please?

Senator Birmingham: Senator Carr, you have just asked for access to conversations. I think we have talked about—

Senator KIM CARR: No, there are communications. There are actual email exchanges between the company and the department. The return to order, in my opinion, covers that. Are they available? They are not part of the deliberative processes of government under any stretch of the imagination. They go to the procurement of a contract.

Senator Birmingham: We will have to take a look at that. We are very happy to take a second look, and we will take that on notice.

**Answer**

The Nous Group report is classified as PROTECTED – Sensitive: Cabinet. The contract has been released and further documents will be provided in due course.