

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Potential conflict of interest**

Question: **36**

Written **Senator Bernardi**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

Last year I asked about a potential conflict of interest related to the Georgiou Review and a DPS employee. Ms Croke said at the time: “I do not think there is a connection” (Feb 2016 Estimates). Has DPS investigated this potential conflict of interest in any way? If so, please provide details of the investigation and its outcome.

Answer

Ms Croke’s answer related to the person being discussed in connection with the company CPM Reviews. Ms Croke statement was correct; the DPS employee who had previously undertaken work for CPM Reviews had no connection with the procurement of the Georgiou Review

In relation to the potential conflict of interest around the procurement of the Georgiou Review and a DPS employee, the Secretary gave an undertaking on 8 February 2016 (at page 93 of the Hansard) to look into the matter. That has occurred. An initial investigation by an external provider was undertaken into the procurement process and that investigation included a recommendation that there was sufficient evidence to warrant a code of conduct investigation. The matter was then referred to the Merit Protection Commissioner for investigation and the investigation found that a breach of the Parliamentary Service Code of Conduct had occurred. A sanction has been imposed by a DPS sanction delegate.