

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017-18

Finance Portfolio
24-25 May 2017

Department/Agency: Finance

Outcome/Program: 3/3.1

Topic: Investigation of certifications from Senators or Members

Senator: Watt

Question reference number: F84

Type of question: Hansard Proof, 25 May 2017, F&PA Committee, page 88

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 7 July 2017

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator WATT: Have there been instances in the past where certifications from senators or members have been investigated? I am new here, but I imagine there would have been.

Ms Hartland: I will take that on notice.

Answer:

As part of administering claims for payment of printing and communications expenses, the Department of Finance (Finance) assesses the material produced to ensure it meets the relevant provisions of the Parliamentary Entitlements Regulations 1997. It is sometimes necessary for Finance to seek further information from Senators and Members to make these assessments. However, Finance relies on the certification made by Senators and Members that the details in the invoice/receipt attached to the certification are correct, that the goods/services were received, and that the payment is a claimable work expense.