

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2015**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Information Policy**

Question: **54**

Written **Senator Wong**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 4 December 2015

1. For how long has it been the policy of the Department of Parliamentary Services to circulate emails from “DPS Information” anonymously?
2. Why are emails circulated anonymously rather than bearing the name of a responsible officer or the secretary, as was the case when Ms Hilary Penfold QC was the secretary, for example?
3. Why do these emails not include appropriate contact details if someone wishes to follow up their contents?

Answer

1. The DPS Information mailbox and email account were created in 2012. The use of the generic email address rather than an individual email address allows email traffic relating to any circular to be monitored and responded to in a timely manner, regardless of the availability of an individual officer. Recipients follow up the contents of circulars by return email to the DPS Information inbox. These responses or inquiries are responded to by members of the DPS communications team. When it is more appropriate for an individual officer with specialist knowledge to respond to inquiries, contact details of that officer are included in the text of the original circular.
2. See answer 1.
3. See answer 1.