

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17**

Finance Portfolio  
18 October 2016

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance/ASC Pty Ltd

**Outcome/Program:** General

**Topic:** Vetting of media releases - ASC

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question reference number:** F3

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 14, 18 October 2016

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** Is it arm's length with handcuffs? What does it mean in the context of media releases, for instance? Do you or your department vet any media releases before they go out?

**Senator Cormann:** We certainly are advised of any public statements that are proposed to be put out.

...

**Senator Cormann:** I take on notice the specific process. But let me just say to you that, as far as I am personally concerned, in relation to the announcement last week, for example, that ASC was proposing to put out a release, I was made aware of that release before it went out. I personally did not have any impact one way or the other on what was or was not in the press release. Whether there is any interaction between the department and ASC I am not aware.

**Answer:**

There have been instances where ASC has sought feedback on draft media releases from the Department of Finance. This has been provided on some occasions. It is not unusual for a GBE to seek advice or feedback from the portfolio agency prior to release, however this is not a requirement.