

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: Alteration of ASC media releases

Senator: Xenophon

Question reference number: F4

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 17, 18 October 2016

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

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator XENOPHON: Mr Edge, are you in a position to advise the committee whether any draft media releases sent to the department from the ASC, in the course of time, have been in any way altered as a result of suggestions or requests from the department to the ASC?

Mr Edge: Over what period, Senator?

Senator XENOPHON: Let us say since the calendar year 2014.

Mr Edge: I would have to take that question on notice. Obviously that is an extended period of time. I could not answer that question.

Senator XENOPHON: Are you aware of any media statements, media releases, in draft form sent by the ASC to the department that have been altered in any way by the department?

Senator Cormann: He has taken that on notice and we will provide an appropriate response on notice.

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.