

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2007-08  
21 February 2008

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Ford Grant

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 21/2/08, Page E50)

**QUESTION No.** AI-7

**Senator ABETZ**—Was any legal advice sought as to whether that agreement or that arrangement could be broken?

**Mr Paterson**—I am not sure. We do not respond to questions in relation to advice that may have been provided or the nature of the advice.

**Senator ABETZ**—I do not want to know what the advice was or the nature of the advice other than whether such advice was sought as to whether or not these agreements that had been entered into with the previous government could be broken, in particular in relation to the Ford announcement or agreement that we referred to before the lunch break, the \$52.5 million amount.

**Mr Paterson**—Your question is precise in its terms and I will take it on notice to respond to it.

**Senator ABETZ**—All right. Thank you very much.

**ANSWER**

Yes, legal advice was sought.