

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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Question: SBT 139

Topic: Social Media

Senator Bushby asked:

Has the department instituted any policies or protocols that restrict or deny staff the use of Youtube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs? If yes, please explain what restrictions have been put in place. Why were these restrictions put in place?

If not, why not?

Are staff utilising these sites during work hours? If yes, how many hours are spent on these sites? What time are these sites most accessed? Will measures be introduced to restrict access to these sites?

Answer:

Currently ASIC has a policy to restrict the use of online social media (Youtube, Facebook, Myspace, Twitter), and other selected online discussion forums and blogs that are not considered related to ASIC's business.

These restrictions were put in place primarily for security reasons.

Online media, other than in some specific areas, is currently seen to have little business benefit, although this is currently under review. There are instances where ASIC uses these channels for a specific purpose, such as a Consumer education campaign, and in these instances an exemption is provided for a period of time.

ENDS