

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Cross Portfolio

DEEWR Question No. EW1160_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 130

Question

Department Tweeting

Senator ABETZ: Could you please take on notice and just give us a brief as to what you are actually doing in that area. Who is the departmental tweeter? Senator Jacinta Collins: Not me. Senator ABETZ: Nobody in the room? Nobody is putting up their hand? Mr Kovacic: You are looking at the wrong person here. Senator ABETZ: I am with you on that one. We finally found a common cause. The tweeter tweeted an AWU tweet, or retweeted an AWU tweet, which talked about the harmonised health and safety laws, which is fine. But it includes 'Our union has a long and proud history of standing up', et cetera, which I must say is possibly not something that the department ought to be involved in. Can you go to the tweeter and ask them just to give us a list of how many trade union tweets they have retweeted and how many employer organisation tweets they have retweeted. I understand they have not retweeted any of mine, much to my chagrin. .. Senator ABETZ: ... Do we know when tweeting started in the department? Ms Paul: I cannot recall. I am not familiar with these cases either, but I am happy to take it on notice. Senator ABETZ: All right. Over the last 12 months— Ms Paul: Sure. We have probably been tweeting for less time than that. Senator ABETZ: and how many union tweets have been retweeted and how many employer organisation tweets have been retweeted. Senator Jacinta Collins: How long have you been tweeting for, Senator Abetz, just so we can track yours?

Answer

Q. Who is the departmental tweeter?

A. Branch Manager, Public Affairs.

Q. Do we know when tweeting started in the department?

A. @deewrspokesman handle was activated on 21 August 2011.

How many union tweets have been retweeted and how many employer organisation tweets have been retweeted?

A. Two unions and 13 employer, community or Government organisations.