

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2012-2013

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Outcome/Program: Cross Portfolio

Topic: Social Media

Senator: Ryan

Question reference number: 99

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: Friday, 30 November 2012

Number of pages: 1

Question:

1. Has there been any changes to department and agency social media or protocols about staff access and useage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since May 2012 Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue.
2. Does the department/agency monitor usage of social media?
 - If yes, provide details of the useage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when useage peaks)
 - If no, will the department/agency monitor useage in the future?
3. Does social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours)

Answer:

1. The Commission currently relies on its own Agency Advice Circular published in January 2012. A Commission specific policy on the issue making official or unofficial comment on social media is currently in draft form.
2. ICT services are provided to the Commission by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR). This includes the Internet gateway and the associated monitoring services. DEEWR have advised that it does not monitor use of social media and does not intend to monitor use in the future.
3. The Commission does not believe that social media has a negative impact on productivity. All employees are aware of their obligations in relation to the APS Values and the Code of Conduct. No manager or supervisor has expressed a concern about inappropriate use of social media in the workplace. The Commission is aware of increasing internet useage generally, however, this can be directly related to proper and efficient use of internet for work related purpose. It can only be assumed that this increasing trend will continue as organisations, including the Commission, place more reliance on the internet for information sharing and other business.