

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Spill-over Hearing June 2017

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 288

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 13-14, 15/06/2017

Topic: Base stations – Round 1 technical specifications

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: How were the technical specifications for the base stations in round 1 established?

Mr Drew: This is for co-location?

Senator URQUHART: Yes.

Mr Drew: I do not believe there were technical specifications for round 1. There were technical specifications for round 2 with regard to co-location but not for round 1. I think that is correct, but I would have to check.

...

Senator URQUHART: I am not asking you about the specific details. So all three carriers were consulted about the technical specifications for round 1?

Mr Drew: No, for round 2.

Senator URQUHART: And what about for round 1?

Mr Drew: I do not believe there were technical specifications for round 1.

Senator URQUHART: So there are no technical specifications—are you sure?

Mr Drew: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator URQUHART: So you are not sure?

Mr Drew: I would have to confirm that, but I do not believe there are.

Answer:

Under round one of the Mobile Black Spot Program, a Mobile Network Operator (MNO) was able to receive points for a mobile base station in the funding application assessment process if they committed to providing co-location on that base station if requested to do so by another MNO.

The technical specifications applying to co-location on a funded base station were not specified in the funding deeds. The technical specifications are negotiated between the relevant MNOs, and supported by a dispute resolution process.