

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 75

Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 108, 24/05/2017

Topic: EBA9

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, could you take on notice the following, which is quite technical. Australia Post is obviously of the view, and it appears that the government is also of the view, that they are bound by the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013, making specific reference to section 22. Please take on notice: what parts of the legislation are different and why is it that Australia Post is bound by that when the ABC is not bound, considering that the ABC on its website says that they are bound by the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013? That is a very technical legislative question. I am really asking you to look at two pieces of legislation and understand why there is certain treatment of one, why one is being treated differently to the other. There may be a legislative reason. It may have to do with the ABC's broader independence charter—though I do note that, apart from these conditions, you have quite an independent charter yourself, according to the act, don't you, Ms Corbett? The act itself gives you quite an independent charter as well?

Ms Corbett: The act outlines our roles and responsibilities. That is correct.

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, can you also take on notice whether there has been any correspondence between your office and Australia Post in relation to these EBA9 matters and, specifically, what the government's expectation is in relation to meeting the 'policy'—I think that was the word used, Minister.

Senator Fifield: Certainly.

Answer:

Subsection 78(7) of the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983* specifically exempts the ABC from the application of section 22 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

There is no equivalent provision in the *Australian Postal Corporation Act 1989*.