

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2013

5 June 2013

Question: BET 44

Topic: Staff behaviour

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Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ: Ms Tankard Rheist made a complaint about a tweet by Mr Adams, and her complaint was upheld. Is that correct?

Mr Reardon: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: When was this? Are we agreed that the offending tweet was on 18 January 2012?

Mr Reardon: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: And the complaint was made on 20 June 2012?

Mr Reardon: The complaint was made to the Australian Public Service Commissioner on 20 June.

Senator ABETZ: How long did it take the Australian Taxation Office to determine this complaint?

Mr Reardon: The complaint was forwarded to us on 6 July 2012.

Senator ABETZ: That was when the complaint was determined?

Mr Reardon: Referred to the ATO from the Australian Public Service Commissioner.

Senator ABETZ: And then when was it determined?

Mr Reardon: It was determined through the month of August through a series of events and final action was taken on 4 September.

Senator ABETZ: The person of whom we speak also admitted these matters, I understand, on an ABC website. It is not as though this man is unknown in the public arena. How many letters, emails and phone calls did Ms Tankard Reist make to the ATO in an effort to find out about the progress of her complaint?

Mr Reardon: I am not aware of a precise number of emails or phone calls, but I can look back on the records. As I think you are aware, there was a period where no correspondence was provided to Ms Tankard Reist until February of 2013, when she provided an email direct to one of the officers of the ATO asking for advice about the complaint.

Answer:

Ms Tankard Reist made contact with the ATO on three occasions. The ATO responded and made contact with Ms Tankard Reist four times to acknowledge and attempt to progress her matter.