

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2013

5 June 2013

Question: BET 46

Topic: Staff behaviour

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Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ: Has this employee been on substantial leave, in particular last month?

Mr Olesen: Can I take that on notice?

Senator ABETZ: Alright. This is his Twitter feed for just one month, about seven tweets per page. If you go through them they are all hours of the working day when one assumes he should be gainfully employed at taxpayer's expense by the ATO. If he took leave, so be it.

Senator Wong: But Senator Cormann just tweeted, presumably that was on working time as well.

Senator CORMANN: I am on double time. They are work related tweets.

Senator ABETZ: What is more I have absolute confidence that Senator Cormann's tweet's would be in stark contrast to the ones contained in this bunch of tweets.

Senator Wong: Is there something you are asking the ATO?

Senator ABETZ: Yes, in relation to his hours at work because the vast majority of these tweets, if you look at the time, are emanating from his time at work when he should be collecting debts or whatever he does in the tax office rather than indulging in this manic tweeting. I simply draw that to your attention to consider the number of tweets in the month of May.

Senator Wong: I understand the ATO are taking on leave the issues associated with the timing of the tweets.

Answer:

No substantial leave was taken by the employee in May 2013.