

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2013

5 June 2013

Question: BET 47

Topic: Staff behaviour

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Senator ABETZ asked:

Senator ABETZ: If he had four weeks leave, so be it, albeit it does not excuse the distastefulness. But the issue of tweeting during work hours would be a real issue for you, I would have hoped. If I go to the Twitter feeds. Just from 31 May until 3 June there was a huge number of tweets, continually emanating. Mr Adams also spends a number of tweets or has a degree of contact with a Ms Grace Bellevue who is a self-described, amongst other things, nefarious escort. I have a printout that I am happy to provide to the officials in relation to that. I am assuming that Mr Adams is not engaged in some undercover operation to ensure tax compliance in the sex industry.

Mr Olesen: I will take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: I would have thought you might be able to tell me the he was not, but if you need to take that on notice so be it. On occasion in these tweets, he also seems to be, in a bizarre way, giving taxation advice or commenting on matters taxation and on one occasion he tweets Grace Bellevue saying, 'This is sailing close to the wind, but la Rosa K showed you can still do illegal activities and still contribute via taxes,' and, 'Someone told you to spend it in hookers and blow for you that is tax effective.'

Answer:

Mr Adams is not employed by the ATO in a compliance capacity.