

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Outcome: Higher Education Research and International**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000031**

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 01 March 2017, Proof Hansard page 59

***EIF Advice from Department***

**Question**

Senator KIM CARR: That is right. So, the department is advising this committee that no-one in the Department of Education has provided advice to Universities Australia that funds could be transferred out of this account without a legislative instrument?

Mr Learmonth: We are saying we are unaware of any such advice from anyone in the department.

Senator KIM CARR: That is a straight, clear question and a straight, clear answer. Has the department received any queries from Universities Australia or any other stakeholders in regard to this matter?

Mr Learmonth: Not that I am aware of, but I could not be definitive.

Senator KIM CARR: Will you take that on notice?

Mr Learmonth: Yes.

Senator Birmingham: In regard to that specific matter or the transfer of funds?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, in regard to the operations. Let me say that I would like to know information in regard to the specific advice that has been asserted. You are saying it did not happen. I would like to also know in regard to the operationalising of that provision of the MYEFO statement/initiative of 2015-16 in December, has there been any correspondence, queries, emails or any form of communication in regard to the implementation of that measure?

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

Senator KIM CARR: Can any such correspondence be provided to the committee?

Mr Learmonth: Again, on notice.

**Answer**

The Department of Education and Training has not received any formal inquiries from Universities Australia or any other stakeholders on the implementation of the measure in the MYEFO 2016–17 relating to the Education Investment Fund (EIF).