

Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 08 April 2024

Question date: 12 April 2024

David Pocock asked the following question:

During the hearing (Hansard p58), Mr Still outlined the department's work in keeping "an eye on open-source material that might alert us to potential unregistered lobbying" and looking at "other sources of information that we can find that might indicate that lobbying is going on that's unregistered."

What resources are deployed on these tasks? What is the ASL is dedicated to this process?

The response to the question is as follows:

The Transparency Frameworks Section of the Attorney-General's Department administers the Lobbying Code of Conduct (Code).

There are on average between 2.5 and 4.0 FTE allocated specifically to Code related work in this team. Within this resourcing, the department monitors open source information that might indicate that unregistered lobbying is occurring. This includes, for example, monitoring media, consulting state and territory registers, and engaging with other departments.