

Senate Inquiry Access to APH by Lobbyists Inquiry

Question on Notice no. 01 – 08 April 2024

Senator David Pocock asked the Department of Parliamentary Services on 08 April 2024:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: But they have already decided that they're happy to sponsor that individual; it's just whether or not they want their electors knowing that they have sponsored that person, to be clear for people who may be tuning in. You mentioned the Privacy Act. Have you sought advice? Which part of the Privacy Act would this impinge on? Have you sought advice from someone on that?

Mr Stefanic: I'll have to take that on notice. I know that the policy itself is very clear on its statements about reference to the Privacy Act. Page 12, paragraph 69 of the policy says: All reasonable steps will be taken to protect the confidentiality of personal information gathered for the purposes of assessing, granting and managing access to the private areas. Then there are a few additional paragraphs that refer to what that personal information entails.

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Is that the documentation around sponsored passes and Parliament House access or is that the Privacy Act?

Mr Stefanic: That's the policy itself, but I will seek advice about the act. I'm sure we have received some legal advice at some point about the Privacy Act; I just don't know—

Answer

Yes. Disclosure of personal information for a purpose not connected with 'identity verification and managing the security of Australian Parliament House' would be inconsistent with both the DPS Privacy Policy and the *Privacy Act 1988*, and in particular Australian Privacy Principle 6.