

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates Spill-over hearing March 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 317

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Written, 31/03/2017

Topic: NBN electorate briefs – Mysterious sequencing

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

1. It is noted that the spill over Senate Estimates hearing was scheduled for 25 November 2016. Is it a coincidence the electorate briefs also happened to be updated on this date?
2. It is noted that QON responses from October 2016 Estimates were due on 30 November 2016. Is it a coincidence the updated electorate briefs also happened to be dated 30 November 2016?
3. What was the purpose of the request for the electorate and state/territory briefs that were updated on 25 November 2016?
4. Please outline why the response to Question on Notice 3 in Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016 from Senator O'Neill was delayed until after the due date of 30 November 2016?

Answer:

1. Yes.
2. Yes.
3. The Minister's Office requested updated briefs.
4. The Department does its best to respond to all Questions on Notice in the time requested by the Committee, however, the resources available to the Department to undertake all of its relevant functions and roles are limited. Pressing complementary workload unfortunately meant that the response could not be provided on time. The response was due on Friday 30 November 2016 and was provided on the following business day, Monday 2 December 2016.