

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Additional Estimates February 2017
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications and the Arts

Question No: 4

Program 1.1

Hansard Ref: Page 12, 28/02/2017

Topic: Government knowledge of pay levels

Senator Dastyari, Sam asked:

Senator DASTYARI: Minister, I will put this on notice and someone from your team may want to get an answer to this before Mr Fahour is here. In the Neil Mitchell interview that Mr Fahour did a few days ago, there is what I interpreted as a direct assertion that people in government knew what his pay levels were. Again, I will be asking him that. But your team is behind you and I wanted to give them an opportunity to check that, so that when we get to that point they can just check that there was not correspondence that you may not necessarily have been personally aware of. But the assertion was that the government was aware. We will confirm that when we speak to Mr Fahour a bit later.

For clarification, is it fair to say that there are people who are able to have a particular view on a remuneration package that is perhaps viewed in the community interest as politically high, without having other motives ascribed to why they have concerns about those payments? Is that correct?
Senator Fifield: Sure.

Answer:

The Department of Communications and the Arts received a copy of Australia Post's correspondence to the Committee dated 14 December 2016 and 24 January 2017, over which Australia Post claimed confidentiality.

Prior to this, the Department was not aware of the details of the individual 2015-16 remuneration packages for senior executives.