

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2014

Communications Portfolio

Department of Communications

Question No: 592

Program No. Legal

Hansard Ref: In Writing

Topic: OPEL

Senator Urquhart asked:

A report in the AFR of 20 May said the litigation over the OPEL contracts is due to go to hearing soon. Can you advise when the case is due to commence? Was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications an executive at Optus in the period covered by this case? Is there a prospect that the Parliamentary Secretary will be providing evidence in this case?

Answer:

There is no date set for the OPEL contract dispute full hearing.

Yes, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Communications, the Hon Paul Fletcher MP, was an executive at Optus for at least part of the period covered by this dispute.

The Department is unable to comment at this time regarding the persons who may give evidence in this case.