

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

14 February 2013

Question: AET 916-918

Topic: Social Media (ATO)

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

916. Has there been any changes to Department and Agency social media or protocols about staff access and usage of YouTube; online social media, such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter; and access to online discussions forums and blogs since October 2012 Supplementary Budget Estimates? If yes, please explain and provide copies of any advice that has been issue.
917. Does the Department/Agency monitor usage of social media?
- If yes, provide details of the usage (for example details could include average hours per employee, hours when usage peaks).
 - Has there been a change to the department/agency protocols due to staff usage?
 - If no, why not? Will the department/agency monitor usage in the future?
918. Do social media impact on employee productivity? Provide details (details could include increased internet usage in general or increased internet usage in standard business hours).

Answer:

916. No.

917. No.

- Not applicable.
 - Not applicable.
 - Current ATO policies restrict system access to social media sites for Facebook, YouTube and Myspace. No access is provided unless there is a genuine business need. There is no intention to monitor usage in the future.
918. The ATO does not monitor social media impact on employee productivity, given access to social media sites is generally restricted.