

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Treasury Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates
2015-2016

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: AET 34

Topic: Consultations with industry associations in relation to ride sharing

Reference: Hansard – page 55

Senator: Leyonhjelm, David

Question:

Senator LEYONHJELM: Okay. In relation to the ruling on ride-sharing, the Uber situation, I think now you are confirming that you consulted with no industry association other than the taxi industry. Was that right?

Mr Jordan: I will not attempt to try to recall that. I did not do too well the first time! Again, I think there were consultations with some state bodies, from memory—and I will call the committee if this is wrong. But I think we did consult with some other people, so it is just not right to say we only consulted with the taxi industry.

Senator LEYONHJELM: All right. Just to remind you of the reply to the question on notice that I placed, it says:

There was no consultation with the Australian Hotels Association or the Accommodation Association of Australia in forming the ATO view or before publishing the public guidance. So I am presuming, if you do not want to alter that—

Mr Jordan: No, if that is the written response, that is the correct situation.

Senator LEYONHJELM: So I am assuming, if there was consultation with anyone other than the Australian Taxi Industry Association, that it was not those two groups. Would that be a safe assumption?

Mr Jordan: Correct.

Senator LEYONHJELM: All right. Can I give you that on notice so you can verify whether there was anybody else consulted in addition to the Australian Taxi Industry Association?

Mr Jordan: We can take that on notice.

Senator LEYONHJELM: Thank you very much.

Answer:

In forming the ATO view, we consulted only with Uber and its representatives.

We did not consult with other industry stakeholders before publishing our public guidance.

Once our view was formed, we provided an advance copy of our draft public guidance to:

- relevant state and territory government authorities
- the Australian Taxi Industry Association
- Uber

to ensure that the view would be understood and that any impacts were known and considered, such as whether our view of the tax law had any consequences on state or territory interpretation of transport regulations.