

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

29 May – 31 May 2012

Question: BET 357-359

Topic: Parliamentary Budget Office

Hansard Page: Written

Senator WATERS asked:

The interim executive officer of the PBO said at Budget Estimates that he had some discussions with Treasury about the memorandum of understanding.

- 357. Can you tell us about what matters it covers?
- 358. Is it just with Treasury or separately with the ATO?
- 359. Can it be publicly released?

Answer:

- 357. The Treasury and the Department of Finance and Deregulation are working on a preliminary draft which could be used as a basis for negotiation between the Officer and the Heads of Commonwealth bodies.

The draft MOU includes: the roles and responsibilities of the Officer and the Head of a Commonwealth body in the provision of information; data integrity and protection; confidentiality and security of information; and dispute resolution.

- 358. The legislation allows the Officer to make an arrangement with the Head of a Commonwealth body. Therefore, it will be the Officer's decision on what Commonwealth bodies would be a party to an arrangement.
- 359. The Officer is required under the legislation to make the MOU publicly available when he/she has reached an arrangement with a Head of a Commonwealth body.