

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3 and 4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Attendance at political functions by departmental staff

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 27)

QUESTION No.: BI-35

Senator KIM CARR: Did any departmental officers attend any Liberal or National or any Western Australian National or Liberal Party fundraisers—any political functions?

Ms Beauchamp: Not that I am aware of. I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Please do. That would include DLOs?

Ms Beauchamp: Indeed.

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you.

CHAIR: Are you suggesting they paid to go?

Senator KIM CARR: I am asking a question here. I am asking a number of departments. There have been reports that there were fundraisers on budget night for the government political parties, and I want to know whether any officials helped with any fundraising activities.

Ms Beauchamp: Are you asking whether they were representing the department in a departmental capacity?

Senator KIM CARR: I presume they were not representing the department. That would be an entirely different set of questions. I want to know whether any departmental officers attended any fundraising events and, if so, in what capacity.

Ms Beauchamp: I am not aware of—I would have to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Take it on notice, thank you—and, if that is the case, any correspondence or request from any ministerial office.

Ms Beauchamp: Can I confirm exactly the second part of that question about correspondence?

Senator KIM CARR: The question is: did they attend any political functions or any fundraising functions associated with budget night? I have excluded the lock-up, which is a straight departmental role. I am asking whether they attended any other—fundraisers, for instance, dinners or—

Ms Beauchamp: I am absolutely not aware of that, and I am sure officers would be aware if that happened.

CHAIR: You have taken it on notice.

Ms Beauchamp: I will take it on notice, but I just want to confirm the second part of your question, about correspondence.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes—if there was any correspondence or any requests from the minister's office for people to attend.

Ms Beauchamp: Any requests from the minister's office for departmental officers to attend fundraising functions? Is that what you are asking?

Senator KIM CARR: No; I have said 'any political functions'. I have included fundraising as a political function.

Ms Beauchamp: But whether the minister's office requested?

Senator KIM CARR: Yes.

Ms Beauchamp: Okay. I will take that on notice, but not that I am aware of.

Senator KIM CARR: I trust the answer will be no and it will not be too difficult to respond to.

ANSWER

There was no request from the Minister's office for a departmental officer to attend any political function and no departmental officer attended a political function on budget night in an official capacity.

The department does not collect information on departmental officers who attend political functions in an unofficial capacity.