

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates  
31 May – 1 June 2017

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** Use of departmental resources for political party purposes

**REFERENCE:** Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 67-68)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-38

Senator KETTER: Secretary, I take it there are rules around the use of department resources for political party purposes?

Ms Beauchamp: Yes.

Senator KETTER: Can you briefly outline what those are?

Ms Beauchamp: Normally the use of resources for political party purposes comes up in the context of caretaker conventions. We are very clear about our obligations under those.

Senator KETTER: Outside of the caretaker period?

Ms Beauchamp: Outside of the caretaker conventions we do not support political party functions.

Senator KETTER: Do they cover, for example, the use of stock images or communication material produced or purchased by the department?

Ms Beauchamp: Do they cover stock material?

Senator KETTER: Stock images, communications material, photographs.

Mr Schwager: Any stock material that we purchase as part of our communication or marketing materials would be used for portfolio purposes.

Senator KETTER: Only?

Mr Schwager: I would have to take that on notice. I think it is highly unlikely that there would be a crossover.

Senator KETTER: On 8 May, Minister Sinodinos issued what appears to be a newsletter from his personal website, not from the ministerial or departmental website. It was in relation to an announcement of funds for manufacturing. Are you aware of that newsletter, Ms Beauchamp?

Ms Beauchamp: Not directly of that newsletter, but I am certainly aware of the material that has been provided in response to that budget initiative—yes.

Senator Sinodinos: Was it a newsletter or press release?

Senator KETTER: It seems to be a newsletter. I will leave it for you to describe. I will table that.

Senator Sinodinos: I will take it on notice and have a look at that.

Senator KETTER: Ms Beauchamp, could you review that document and advise whether any materials in that document are departmental, such as stock images? I would like to know whether the department provided any assistance in the development of that material.

Ms Beauchamp: I will take that on notice after I have thoroughly reviewed it.

Senator KETTER: Minister, I am not expecting you to know the answer to this, but you may well be aware of who produced that material for that newsletter.

Senator Sinodinos: I will check for you. Just to clarify, are you asking about the images that were used?

Senator KETTER: Yes.

Senator Sinodinos: I will check.

Senator KETTER: And also whether there were any departmental officers involved in that.

Senator Sinodinos: Okay.

**ANSWER**

The department did not provide any assistance in the development of this material. Departmental communication or marketing materials, including stock images, are used for portfolio-related purposes only.