

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee  
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

**Answers to Questions on Notice**

**Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services**

Topic: **Enterprise bargaining**

Question: **68**

Written **Senator Wong**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017**

1. What are considered to be the primary issues of contention that resulted in a vote of seventy-three percent against the proposed agreement?
2. Can a revised timetable for negotiation be provided?

**Answer**

1. DPS is unable to provide the primary issues of contention until the results of the survey being run from 15 March to 6 April 2017 have been analysed and considered. DPS will then need to consider whether to seek further feedback via focus groups before deciding on how to proceed.
2. Until these steps are completed DPS is unable to provide a revised timetable for negotiations. Employees were advised that it would be around mid-2017 before another offer could be made. On that basis, efforts will be made to reformulate an offer at the earliest opportunity.