

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

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers**

Question: **92**

Written **Senator Farrell**

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

With reference to the inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers of many parliamentarians and their staff published in the Parliamentarians' Mobile and Telecommunications and Data Services Expenditure reports:

- a) When did the private contractor, TELCO Management, first become aware of the breach?
- b) How did the private contractor, TELCO Management, first become aware of the breach?
- c) What action did the private contractor, TELCO Management, take in response to being advised of the breach?

Answer

- a) The private contractor TELCO management was first made aware of the data spill at approximately 1.30pm on 20 March 2017.
- b) The private contractor became aware of the data spill when they were contacted by the Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS).
- c) On being advised of the data spill the private contractor reviewed the files that had been provided to DPS and confirmed that a coding error had occurred resulting in the information which was to be redacted from the reports instead being changed to white text on a white background. This was in contrast to the required action which should have resulted in the information being deleted from the reports. They also regenerated the report to ensure complete removal of the redacted information.