

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee —Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2014

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Lobbyist Register Meetings**

Question: **231**

Written: **Senator Ludwig**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 31 December 2014

Since Budget Estimates in June, 2014:

1. List all interactions between the department/agency with any representative listed on the lobbyist register
2. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting
3. List all interactions between the Minister/parliamentary Secretary and/or their offices with any representative listed on the lobbyist register during the specified period. List the participants in the meeting, the topic of the discussion, who arranged or requested the meeting, the location of the meeting

Answer

1. & 2. In relation to question on notice 235 from the Budget Estimates hearings in May 2014, the Parliamentary Library was contacted on 30 April 2014 by Mr Steve Lewis (Senior Advisor, Newgate Communications http://lobbyists.pmc.gov.au/register/view_agency.cfm?id=565) in his capacity as Senior Vice President of the National Press Club seeking transcripts and audio recordings of Press Club addresses for a publication to mark the Press Club's 50th anniversary. The Parliamentary Librarian subsequently spoke to Mr Lewis and advised that he should approach the ABC. Mr. Lewis also contacted the Director of the Library's Collection Management Section (by phone and email) with the same request. He was provided with full citations of a number of past Press Club speeches to assist his search and again advised that he should approach the ABC. The last contact was in June 2014. No meetings took place. Library staff routinely have contact with former Senators and Members who have an ongoing entitlement to certain Library services (as set out in the *Parliamentary Library Statement of Client Services*). These former Senators and Members may be registered lobbyists; however this is not relevant to their interaction with the Library.

A telephone conversation occurred between Karen Greening, Assistant Secretary Parliamentary Recording and Reporting Branch and Mr Gary Humphries, First State Government and Corporate Relations, on 7 August 2014, regarding an outcome from the scoping study undertaken in June 2014 of the captioning of parliamentary broadcasts. The company Mr Humphries represents, CaptionIt, participated in the study. Mr Humphries initiated the conversation via a voicemail message he left for Daniel Knox on 7 August 2014 (who is the officer managing the study) that Ms Greening returned later that day.

Broadcast Infrastructure Support (BIS) have had extensive interactions with BAE Systems staff during the design, construction, documentation and training associated with the new digital House monitoring system, however none of these interactions were of a lobbyist nature. Interactions with BAE Systems staff, David Hitchens, Anthony James and Marc Doecke, were specifically about the technical implementation of the contract that exists between BAE Systems and DPS for the replacement of the HMS. BIS interactions with BAE systems began in May 2013 and are still continuing as we move into the support phase of the HMS implementation.

Since the May 2014 Budget Estimates, the pass office has interacted with approximately 40 representatives on the lobbyist register to organise the issue or reissue of a Parliament House sponsored pass. The pass office does not maintain a register of every interaction with lobbyists.

3. Not applicable.