

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing—October 2016**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Connecting hardware to the PCN**

Question: **9**

Hansard Reference **p 18; 17 October 2016**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Senator WONG: So you are not aware of whether the watch was connected to any of the ICT networks, either for DPS or for his portfolio department?

Ms Seittenranta: For DPS I am not aware, and I would not get told by his portfolio department if he did connect it.

Senator WONG: If it were connected to the DPS network, could you find that out?

Ms Seittenranta: I can look to see if we could. I am not 100 per cent certain whether we would have that level of—

Answer

DPS can only comment on operations of the Australian Parliament House (APH) network. DPS does not have any visibility or management oversight related to executive government portfolio networks.

In this case where the watch in question has been identified as a blue tooth watch, if it were connected to a user's computer via Bluetooth no network based record would be created to indicate that connection. Security controls exist on APH workstations and laptops that would prevent the watch from making any changes to the PC/laptop. This includes preventing the installation of any software or known malware to the PC/laptop.

Only devices that are preauthorised by DPS ICT are able to connect to the 'Parliamentary Computing Wireless Network' (PCWN). There are some open networks within Parliament House (including public wi fi) to which a user could connect a smart watch. However for security reasons these networks are segmented from the PCWN.