

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017

Administrative Appeals Tribunal

Question No. BE17-084

Senator O'Sullivan asked the following question on 25 May 2017:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Are you aware of the contents of the email and whether there has been any reference to that? Have you sighted the email?

Ms Leathem: Yes. I have.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Is there any reference to that?

Ms Leathem: I believe there was.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: So that went to the supervisor?

Ms Leathem: They are not supervised because they are members. They are independent statutory officers.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: So what is Ms O'Connell's position?

Ms Leathem: She is a deputy division head.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: So it went to a deputy division head. Can you tell us what Ms O'Connell did with that information?

Ms Leathem: I understand that she forwarded it to an executive officer for advice about the procedure.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: I ask you to take on notice to supply us with the correspondence between her and the executive officer.

The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:

There is no correspondence between Deputy Division Head Dr O'Connell and the Executive Officer in relation to this matter. The Administrative Appeals Tribunal has clarified that Dr O'Connell did not forward the email to the Executive Officer. Dr O'Connell was on leave on the day in question.