

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS

SUB PROGRAM 2.3: TELSTRA CORPORATION LIMITED

QUESTION

Senator Alston asked the following Question on Notice:

2. Does ASIS have access to personal files kept by Telecom?

ANSWER

No.

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QUESTION

Senator Alston asked the following Question on Notice:

3. Can each and every one of these organisations access Telecom's files containing billing details?

ANSWER

None of these organisations are able to access Telecom's files containing billing details. Where it is necessary to provide billing details for business purposes, e.g bill preparation, the necessary details are extracted from the files by Telecom and only these specific details are forwarded to the external organisation.



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Senator Alston asked the following Question on Notice:

5. Could you guarantee that no parliamentarians, who have had dealings with COT members, have had their phone conversations bugged or taped by Telecom?

ANSWER

These matters are currently being investigated by the AFP and AUSTEL, and by Telecom itself.

It would be inappropriate for Telecom to make any further comments at this stage about possible breaches of the Telecommunications (Interception) Act while the matter is before the Federal Police. However, the Minister will be making a full statement in the near future on action taken to date to remedy apparent procedural problems within Telecom.

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Senator Alston asked the following Question on Notice:

6. If not, could you provide list of all parliamentarians who have had their conversations with COT members either bugged or taped?

ANSWER

See answer provided to Question 5.

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QUESTION

Senator Alston asked the following Question on Notice:

7. Ann Garms believes that the tapes made by Telecom would have recorded daily calls with her solicitor, accountant, insurance loss adjuster, Senators and other COT case members as they were made at the same time that she was negotiating a financial settlement with Telecom.
 - (a) Has Telecom recorded conversations between Ann Garms and any of the forementioned persons?
 - (b) If so which persons and will copies of the transcripts or tapes of these confidential conversations be made available to Mrs Garms? If not, why not?

ANSWER

See answer provided to Question 5.