



OFFICIAL

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Consumer Affairs
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
196 London Circuit
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Minister,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane", is written over the "Dear Minister," text.

Thank you for your letter of 31 July 2023 in respect of questions at the Estimates Committee public hearing on 21 July 2023 regarding questions relating to the Commissioner for Fair Trading.

The Committee appreciates the additional information provided and has authorised your letter, its attachments, and this response for publication on the inquiry webpage.

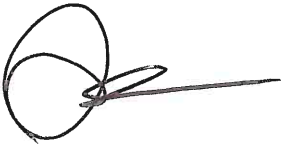
In your letter you have noted that:

I also note that the basis of the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024 to deal with witnesses is provided, *inter alia*, in Standing Order 264A. Of course, the powers of inquiry of the committee are those delegated by the Legislative Assembly, including the rules for the manner and form of questions to be put, contained, *inter alia*, in Standing Order 117. This Standing Order proscribes certain content of questions including the naming of persons unless strictly necessary, inferences, imputations or questions as to hypothetical matters.

In response to that, I also note that based on advice from the Clerk, standing order 117 applies to the Assembly but not to Committees. The Clerk has also advised that for questions asked in Estimates Committees, questioning must be relevant to the estimates of expenditure which can lead to broad lines of questioning. This is based on based on *Odger's Australian Senate Practice* page 482- 483 which was endorsed in line with the view expressed by the Procedures Committee that any questions going to the operations or financial positions of the departments and agencies which shape those claims are relevant.

If there are any questions please contact the Committee secretary Kathleen de Kleuver on (02) 620 50129 or at LACommitteeEstimates@parliament.act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a horizontal stroke.

Mark Parton MLA
Chair
3 August 2023