

From: Ashby, James (Sen P. Hanson) [mailto:James.H.Ashby@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2017 12:44 PM
To: Alan Sunderland <Sunderland.Alan@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: ABC access to One Nation event in WA

Dear Mr Sunderland

Thank you for seeking clarification over last night's media arrangements at the Western Australian election function.

Arrangements were made at least one week in advance for a single network camera to be given access to the bowls club. Jessica Page from Seven WA informed all networks, including the ABC of the arrangement.

While arrangements may not have met your expectations, there was never a denial of access to the Senators commentary on the evening of the election.

We look forward to the ABC's continued fair, accurate, independent and impartial journalism.

Kind Regards,
James Ashby
Chief Of Staff for Senator Pauline Hanson

Electorate Office

Suite 6, Level 36, Waterfront Place
1 Eagle Street, Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone (07) 3221 7644 | Fax (07) 3221 8422
James.H.Ashby@aph.gov.au



From: Alan Sunderland [mailto:Sunderland.Alan@abc.net.au]
Sent: Sunday, 12 March 2017 6:11 AM
To: [REDACTED]; Ashby, James (Sen P. Hanson); Hanson, Pauline (Senator)
Subject: ABC access to One Nation event in WA

Dear Senator Hanson,

I am aware that the ABC was denied entry to One Nation's official election night function in Western Australia last night.

This was the event where you spoke to supporters and to the media about the election result. I have been advised that all other media organisations that were present on the night were freely admitted, but that reporters and crew from the ABC were clearly and specifically excluded.

I am also aware of your comments at that event, when asked about the ABC ban, that you simply wanted to spend time with your supporters rather than with the media. However, that explanation does not appear to square with the facts, which were that the event was clearly open to all media except the ABC.

I am therefore writing to you as a matter of urgency seeking an explanation.

The ABC is committed to fair, accurate, independent and impartial journalism and it is vitally important to the functioning of Australian democracy that the free press, including the ABC, is able to fulfil its role in the democratic process.

I would therefore like to ask who made the decision to exclude the ABC and only the ABC - from the event and what the reasons were for this decision.

In addition to an explanation for last night's actions, I am also seeking a reassurance that in future the ABC will be treated appropriately and consistent with all other media organisations, and allowed to do it's job.

I can be contacted at any time via return email or on the contact number listed below.

Regards,

Alan Sunderland
Editorial Director
Australian Broadcasting Corporation.
Mobile: [REDACTED]

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From: Ashby, James (Sen P. Hanson) [mailto:James.H.Ashby@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 14 March 2017 1:11 AM
To: Alan Sunderland <Sunderland.Alan@abc.net.au>
Subject: RE: BAN ON THE ABC

Dear Alan,

I do not wish to speculate the reasons for the email Ms Zaclova received, that is a matter for the One Nation office to respond to should they wish to.

I refer you to my previous email that points out, while arrangements may not have met the ABC's expectations, there was never a denial of access to the Senators commentary on the evening of the election.

Her visit to Western Australia was well documented by various ABC journalists and at no point has a ban been placed on the national broadcaster.

Kind Regards,

James Ashby
Chief Of Staff for Senator Pauline Hanson

Electorate Office

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From: Alan Sunderland [mailto:Sunderland.Alan@abc.net.au]
Sent: Monday, 13 March 2017 1:24 PM
To: Ashby, James (Sen P. Hanson); Hanson, Pauline (Senator)
Subject: BAN ON THE ABC

Dear Mr Ashby,

A couple of final matters I should bring to your attention.

First of all, I am in receipt of an email from Eketerina Zacklova, the official endorsed One Nation candidate for Roe at the WA Election, where she advised the ABC on February 21st that "I believe and have been instructed at this moment as per instructions from Qld we are not dealing with the ABC and only select media outlets and advertisers."

I would like to know why this instruction was issued and whether it was still in force on Saturday and might explain the ban on the ABC from entering the One Nation function.

Secondly, as a courtesy, I wanted to advise you that I expect to have something to say via the ABC's website on this matter before the end of the day, and I want to give you every opportunity before I do that to respond to the substance of the matters I have raised.

As I have made clear from the outset, the role of a free media in an Australian democracy is a matter of fundamental importance to the ABC, and so it is an issue we need to publicly address.

Regards,

Alan Sunderland

Editorial Director

ABC

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