

7-Eleven Stores Pty. Ltd.

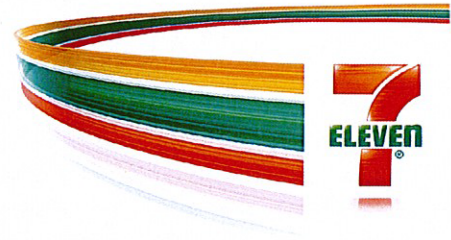
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22 October, 2015

Education and Employment Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

By email:

Dear Dr. Hodder

Re: Senate Temporary visa program hearing on 24th September, 2015

I refer to a question asked during the evidence provided by 7-Eleven personnel at the Senate Committee hearing on September 24.

Senator O'Neill asked Mr Wilmot why he allowed the sale of two of 7-Eleven's biggest sites to the sibling of the general Manager of Operations, "who had no previous 7-Eleven experience and a criminal record".

As the record reveals, Mr Wilmot indicated that he had no awareness of a criminal record and that, as I understand it, remains the case. He then proceeded to deal with the first part of the question (which does not require any clarification or expansion).

Senator O'Neill pressed further and enquired why, given the deep faith in this person there was an inability to advise whether he had "a criminal record or not".

In relation to that re-statement of the initial question I then observed that "the checks from MoneyGram would answer that anyway..... as part of the prudential requirements ... criminal records must be examined." I went on to say that I would expect that "the criminal record check had been done".

It is perhaps not inappropriate at this point to note that (although not clear from the question) the "criminal record" to which the Honourable Senator referred related to one antecedent which would not, in the broader community (or even within the legal fraternity) generally be so described.

It is now understood that the offence which underpinned the question was that of failing to furnish an approved form to the Tax Department. It was dealt with summarily in the Melbourne Magistrates' Court and a fine was imposed. In the absence of special circumstances that type of transgression would not be regarded as constituting a "serious offence" within the meaning of the Franchising Code or the Oil Code such as to preclude eligibility to hold a franchise.

For the avoidance of doubt, at the time the question was put to me I was not aware of the past conviction. Also I had assumed that the particular stores must have included MoneyGram service and that the check I referred to had been undertaken. As I am now advised, those Stores (along with a small number of other outlets) have not taken up the opportunity to provide MoneyGram facilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can offer any further information regarding this particular aspect of the questioning.

Yours faithfully

Russell Withers