

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Social Services Portfolio**  
**2014-15 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 1**

**Question No: 53**

**Topic: McClure Review**

**Hansard Page: Written**

**Senator Brown** asked:

Speculation has also suggested that the Department is considering streamlining payments into one - or a reduced number - of payments. Is the Department aware that the shift to a universal payment in the UK has been plagued by cost blowouts and delays? In fact, I understand that it is now considered to be an 'at risk' program.

- a) What work or research has the department done on the experience in the UK? Is the Department concerned that the 'streamlining' agenda in the UK has been a comprehensive failure?
- b) What work has the Department done to ensure that none of the issues in the UK are repeated here?

**Answer:**

This QoN was answered in part at the hearing on 4 June 2014 – Please see Hansard pages CA68 and CA69.

The Department monitors the UK's welfare reform policies and their implementation on an ongoing basis.