

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Additional Estimates Hearings February 2015

Communications Portfolio

Australia Post

Question No: 15

Program No. Australia Post

Hansard Ref: Page 31, 24/2/2015

Topic: PostConnect

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Okay, so what functions will transfer with the sale of PostConnect?

Mr Fahour: I am happy in terms of the specifics to take the question on notice. One of the things I am just conscious of is that we have just entered a commercial negotiation to sell that to a player in the association. I am not sure that I want to breach any confidentiality agreements, but I am not sure they would appreciate having the other printing industry players know that level of detail. But, as always, you have the right to ask me in camera, and I will give that to you in camera if you wish.

Senator URQUHART: Can you provide that to us.

Mr Fahour: In camera?

Senator URQUHART: Yes...

Senator URQUHART: ...How many bidders were there?

Mr Fahour: Again, there is a commercial transaction that took place here, and I would wish to—

Senator URQUHART: I am not asking you who they were; I am only asking how many.

Mr Fahour: I think that is commercial-in-confidence, but I am happy, again to provide you all the answers, such that different players in the industry do not know what the nature of the commercial transaction was. But it was a tender, and we will provide the committee with that in confidence.

CHAIR: Can I just put on record, Senator Urquhart, that you will need to provide that evidence under standing order 25...

Senator URQUHART: ...And what will happen to the PostConnect staff? Have they been transferred, or will they be made redundant, or—

Mr Fahour: There are, as part of the process, a number of staff that have been offered an opportunity to go with the acquired entity, and there are some staff that are not needed.

Senator URQUHART: How many staff are there that are attached to PostConnect?

Mr Fahour: Again, the specifics of the data around PostConnect we can give you in writing. We will take that question on notice to give you the exact number of people, but what I can say to you is that, while a number would go with the transaction, some are going to stay at Australia Post, and we are in the process of activating our RRR process. Our RRR process requires us to follow through a retraining and redeployment process, and then, if there is no opportunities for any of these people, a redundancy package is then offered to these people. But we are in the process of working our way through those who do not go with the sale of this business.

Senator URQUHART: So you will provide the numbers of employees currently—

Mr Fahour: The exact numbers, yes.

Senator URQUHART: and then how many will transfer.

Mr Fahour: Yes.

Senator URQUHART: I presume that may not be all of them, but you will provide us those, and also the functions, if they are transferred all over.

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Answer:

As noted at the hearing, the information will be provided separately to the committee under standing order 25(2).