

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**

**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**

**Budget Estimates May 2017**

**Communications Portfolio**

**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 6**

**Program 1.1**

**Hansard Ref: Page 13, 24/05/2017**

**Topic: Labour Hire**

**Senator O'Neill, Deborah asked:**

**Senator O'NEILL:** Do any of these labour hire companies use Plutus?

**Ms Talbot:** I will have to take that on notice. The department certainly does not use Plutus but whether there is an indirect—if any of those hire companies are using Plutus—I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator O'NEILL:** Have you undertaken any investigation into that in the last 48 to 72 hours?

**Ms Talbot:** I have asked my HR area to have a look at existing contractors to see whether any of our staff—

**Senator O'NEILL:** Would you be able to get a response to us by the close of the day?

**Ms Talbot:** I will endeavour to do that, Senator.

**Answer:**

The Department of Communications and the Arts engages labour hire companies Hudson Global Resources and Hays Recruitment. Both Hays and Hudson Global have confirmed that they offer Plutus Payroll as an option to their contractors.

The Department's Human Resources Branch investigated to see if any of our contractors were impacted.

The Department can confirm none of the contractors working at the Department are obtaining payroll services from Plutus Payroll.

As conveyed to the Committee during the Hearing, the Department has arrangements in place that avoid labour hire payments. The Department has sourced candidates from labour hire companies, but those candidates have been placed on the Department's payroll.