

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0854_15

Senator Cameron asked on 3 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 34

Question

Documents related to media article

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide any documents created from both the minister's office and the department related to the issue presented in the media article that asked the department to massage the jobs? That is the David Crowe article and any correspondence around the David Crowe article. Ms Taylor: Yes. I can take that on notice. Again, I say there was no request to massage the jobs figures. Senator Abetz: I also indicate for the committee that the shadow minister has put in an FOI on this. It does not stop this senator asking for them as well. Senator CAMERON: That is right. Could you provide documents related to the media inquiry? There was a media inquiry to the department, was there? Ms Taylor: There was no media inquiry to the department that I am aware of, but we can check. Senator CAMERON: Check for me. Ms Leon: In fact, I think I said in either my statement or my letter to the editor about it that the journalist had not contacted the department to seek to ascertain the truth or otherwise of these assertions that were going to be published. Senator CAMERON: Just for clarification, the request I am asking is within the date range 1 February 2014 until 24 March 2014. It includes any documents which are emails, handwritten notes, summaries and drafts. Ms Taylor: Certainly. Senator CAMERON: Take that on notice.

Answer

There was no media inquiry to the department in relation to the David Crowe article.

There is a large number of departmental documents relating to the David Crowe article within the date range 1 February to 24 March 2014. To provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.