

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee — Budget Estimates Hearing—May 2017

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: Investigation of tax fraud involving certain payroll service company

Question: 108

Written: Senator Wong

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 7 July 2017

With reference to the investigation of a major tax fraud involving certain payroll service companies, and one of the concerning aspects of this case being a number of government agencies making use of payroll companies involved:

Do any labour hire companies contracted by the Department of Parliamentary Services currently use Plutus or have any in the past 12 months used Plutus?

Has the Department of Parliamentary Services undertaken any investigation into the use of Plutus by labour hire companies?

Answer

DPS does not have information on how contracted companies manage their payroll services. DPS is not aware of any companies it has contracted being affected by the recent collapse of Plutus.

DPS also notes advice on the Australian Taxation Office website (at <https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Gen/FAQs-for-those-affected-by-recent-payroll-company-issues/#Employerscenarios><https://www.ato.gov.au/General/Gen/FAQs-for-those-affected-by-recent-payroll-company-issues/> - Employerscenarios) that even if a company contracted by DPS had used Plutus for that company's payroll services, DPS would not be responsible for any tax liability for that company's employees.