

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/325) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator O’Neill asked:

As I understand it, it was confirming that on 30 June 2014 a letter was sent to the CFMEU by the senator's office informing the union that investigation was underway with regard to allegations about a particular company for the Roy Hill project. What I wanted to do was to track from the beginning—in other words, when it was first raised. I will not mention the name of the company for the obvious reasons, but I wanted to then identify the correspondence: when it first came to the minister's office; what you then, if it was you, did with it—whether you sent it to the department for investigation; what they then did with it, or whether it was then on-forwarded to the Fair Work Commission. Then, obviously, if the Fair Work Commission has then come back to you with an answer or further particulars, then that correspondence; if they have not, then I will go to them to see what they are doing with it.

Answer:

The department received an allegation regarding Samsung C & T Corporation from an anonymous source on 11 March 2014 raising concerns that the sponsor was breaching their obligations under the 457 programme. On 4 April 2014, the department commenced monitoring of Samsung C&T Corporation’s compliance with the sponsorship obligations.

The Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) also sent a letter to the Minister for Employment in early April 2014 requesting that an investigation be commenced into the alleged exploitation. The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) advised the department on 4 April 2014 that the issues raised by the CFMEU related predominantly to the Migration Act.

The Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, was sent a letter dated 18 June 2014 from Mr O’Connor, National Secretary of the CFMEU.

On 30 July (not 30 June) 2014, Senator Cash responded to the letter from the CFMEU regarding allegations made about Samsung C&T.