

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES – 20 OCTOBER 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(SE14/430) PROGRAMME – Internal Product

Senator Carr asked:

Can you confirm that a letter from the CFMEU dated 5 August 2014 was received by the Senator's office requesting an update on the investigation?

Can you confirm that on 30 June 2014 a letter was sent to the CFMEU by the Senator's office informing the Union that an investigation was underway in regards to roort allegations by Samsung C&T for the Roy Hill Project?

If so, could you please provide an update on how this investigation is progressing?

Is the investigation ongoing?

If not, why have the results not been publically released?

If so, what are the results so far?

Why has it taken the department over six months, so far, to conduct this investigation given the urgent and serious nature of the allegations?

Does the Senator have an idea as to when the investigation will conclude? When will the results of this investigation be released to the public?

Answer:

The Assistant Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash received a letter from Mr Michael O'Connor, National Secretary of the CFMEU dated 18 June 2014 (not 5 August 2014) raising issues in relation to Samsung C&T Corporation. A further letter was received by Minister Cash from the honorable member Mr Thomson on 14 November 2014, in which he made representations on behalf of Mr O'Connor requesting an update on the investigation into Samsung C&T.

On 30 July (not 30 June) 2014, Senator Cash responded to the letter from the CFMEU regarding allegations made about Samsung C&T. The letter noted that details of the investigation were not able to be provided for operational and privacy reasons. This response was posted to Mr O'Connor on 5 August 2014.

On 14 August 2014, the department finalised its audit of Samsung C&T Corporation and found two breaches of regulation 2.86 (the requirement that a sponsored person work in their nominated position). The department undertook action against Samsung C&T in line with sanctions processes for failure to comply with regulation 2.86. The Department of Immigration and Border Protection does not usually publicise the details of monitoring activity, for operational and privacy reasons.