

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW1070_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 23

Refers to previous DEEWR question EW0727_12

Question

FWA - regarding previous question EW0727_12 from October hearing

Senator RONALDSON: Because it would seem a little strange, wouldn't it, that if you got advice from the AGS in relation to the Williams' memo and privilege but you have gone elsewhere to get advice in relation to questions on whether Mr Thomson has been served with his papers is allowable? Thank you. Senator ABETZ: Ms O'Neill, when did you first realise that the answer to which I was referring previously, No. 0727_12, was incorrect? Ms O'Neill: Could I take that on notice? I want to be as accurate as I can be.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

The answer to question EW0727_12 was incorrect in not including a telephone call from the then Minister's office to Mr Lee, the former General Manager, regarding the expected time frame for completion of the national office investigation. Mr Lee directed the Minister's office to FWA's appearance before Senate estimates on 30 May 2011 in which the delegate advised that the investigation may be completed in the latter half of 2011. Ms O'Neill first realised that the answer was incorrect in this respect the week preceding Senate Estimates on 15 February 2012.

The answer to question EW0727_12 was incorrect in referring only to email contact between the FWA Communications Manager Ms Judy Hughes and Minister Evans' press office on 18 and 22 August 2011. Ms Hughes gave evidence at Senate estimates on 15 February 2012 that she recollected about two conversations with the press officer. Ms O'Neill first realised that the answer was incorrect in this respect when Ms Hughes gave her evidence.