

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - ABCC/FWBII

DEEWR Question No. EW0118_13

Senator Cameron asked in writing

Question

ABCC – Covert surveillance

In answer to question EW0985_12, the ABCC said that in the Setka/Hudson proceedings there was confusion about the definition of covert surveillance and that no fair analysis could conclude that an admission of covert surveillance was made. Further, to the extent that covert surveillance is conducted in a manner that is deliberately secret or concealed, the ABC Commissioner has not authorised this practice.

Questions:

1. How does the ABCC define covert surveillance? What type of surveillance does the ABCC engage in that it does not consider covert?
2. Has any ABCC Inspector conducted surveillance that the ABCC would consider covert but which was not authorised by the ABC Commissioner? If so, when and in relation to which investigation or investigations?
3. Was any covert surveillance authorised by former ABC Commissioner Lloyd?

Answer

Fair Work Building & Construction has provided the following response.

1. As noted in the response to EW0985_12, the ABCC understands covert surveillance as surveillance that is undertaken in a manner that is deliberately secret or concealed.
2. No.
3. No.