

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates May 2017

Communications Portfolio

NBN Co Limited

Question No: 208

NBN Co Limited

Hansard Ref: Page 84, 25/05/2017

Topic: Skybridge – Unsafe job

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Senator URQUHART: Just get me through that process. So I am driving out. I drive a number of hours out to a property where I am the only one there. I look up. I feel it is unsafe. I do not feel safe enough to get up because of the pitch of the roof or whatever it might be. It might be lots of different examples. I decide that it is unsafe so I then, obviously, ring my employer or whatever and drive back. So during that period of time, within the contract of NBN, that person still gets paid?

Mr Simon: Correct. As I said before, each job Skybridge monitors at end of day, completion or not, and goes through them to understand what has occurred, ensure that safety precautions have been followed and their procedures have been followed. In that case they would then have the dialogue with Skybridge. They would assess the situation and then work out what has to be done next. Does another crew have to be sent out? Do extra people have to be sent out and so on?

Senator URQUHART: So that is all part of that process?

Mr Simon: Yes.

Senator URQUHART: Can you take on notice how much they would be paid and does that then cover the travel time and costs associated with that?

Mr Simon: Yes, I can.

Answer:

The contractor would be paid for both successful and failed Activations. They are paid an average rate of \$184 per failed activation, based on the contractual agreement. This amount varies based on the region where work is undertaken.

The rate covers labour and associated travel costs. The rate does not include material costs.