

## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.1)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 November 2021:

Please outline the role of US contractor Mission Essential Personnel (MEP) in sourcing interpreters and other staff to work with Australian forces during Australia's engagement in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Mission Essential Personnel (MEP) was one of several companies that provided specialist contractor support, primarily linguists, for ADF in Afghanistan. MEP interpreters were used to support Operation HIGHROAD. MEP's role was to locate, hire, and manage linguists as employees, billing the ADF for the linguist support provided.

## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.2)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 November 2021:

What were the employment arrangements for individuals who were engaged and had security checks undertaken by MEP? Were these individuals paid directly by Defence or did Defence pay MEP for the services of these contractors?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

MEP hired and paid linguists and billed Defence for the services provided by the linguists. Defence paid MEP a fee for service.

## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.3)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 November 2021:

How many contractors sourced by MEP worked with Australian forces in Afghanistan?

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Defence records indicate that MEP provided 38 linguists in support of ADF in Afghanistan between 2014 and 2020.

## **COMMITTEE INQUIRY QUESTION**

(Question No.4)

Senator Kimberley Kitching asked the Department of Defence, upon notice, on 12 November 2021:

What records does Defence hold about interpreters and other Afghan nationals who were engaged through MEP to assist Australian forces? Please provide the committee with a copy of any relevant record held by Defence.

The Department of Defence has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

Defence holds records that include some employment data such as employment dates and associated contractor. These records are utilised to assess LEE applications. Defence cannot provide a copy of these records due to privacy concerns.